





PRESBYTERY OF ST ANDREWS.

Signatures at the Solemn League & Covenant, 1643.

Robert Wilkie M^c Cannie Eschierfurd

Robert Blaw M^c Donald Monroe Mr Jo: Barroun Mc Neveas Longman.

Matthew M^r Colin Adams Mc Donald Forst Mr James Good

Robert Bonney Mr Ge. Dewar Mr Ro: Traill

Forthin Fraken Jamieson M^r Robert Mylone

Johnstone Johnstone M^r Robert Forbes

Alexander Hanmer Moncrief of Randerston

James Birring George Alopas Ha Bruce

Mr Thomas Fenton John Drennan Clerk Mr George Lang

Mr Thomas Blair Robert Philip Heart

Mr Thomas Woods William Oldman

Andro Lass John Scott of Ballormo

Signatures at the Test Oath, 1681.

Bruce

W^r David Taylor

Will: Hony

Ja: Strachane

Gib: Simpson

Ab^r Lundie

Jo: Wood

And: Austinlock

And: Flooker

Wilsons

Witt: Moore Kirk
Brown

D. Al: Edward

MR Longman

Mr John Austinlock

Hiddeton

EGomfona

ECCLESIASTICAL RECORDS.

SELECTIONS FROM THE MINUTES

OF THE PRESBYTERIES

OF

ST. ANDREWS AND CUPAR,

M.DC.XLI.—M.DC.XCVIII.

EDINBURGH:

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BY

GEORGE R. KINLOCH.

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M.DCCC.XXXVII.

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INTRODUCTORY NOTICE.

ALTHOUGH the local ecclesiastical Records of Scotland afford much valuable and interesting information regarding the early polity and discipline of the Church, the peculiar and anomalous jurisdiction of its judicatures, the moral and religious state of the country, and the manners, customs, and superstitions of the people, yet they have been either intirely overlooked, or only partially examined. As the earlier Registers of the PRESBYTERIES OF ST. ANDREWS AND CUPAR comprise a mass of important and curious matter relating to these subjects, I have been induced to select from them the following Extracts, as a contribution to the Abbotsford Club.

It may be remarked, that many of the old Church Registers have been either lost or destroyed; and those that still remain have been too long allowed to lie in obscurity, subject to almost certain destruction from the careless manner in which they are preserved, being in many instances unbound, stained with damp, torn, or otherwise materially injured.¹ It is hoped, therefore, that the present volume may not only serve as an epitome of the Registers of these two Presbyteries, during a momentous period of Church history, but may also direct the attention of individuals to the general nature and importance of our ecclesiastical records, and lead them to a careful examination of their contents, and to contribute to their preservation.

¹ It is certainly matter of regret that they should remain in this state, and it would be a national benefit were an Act passed for the transmission of the more ancient volumes to some Public Repository.

INTRODUCTORY NOTICE.

The earliest record of the PRESBYTERY OF ST. ANDREWS, now extant, commences on the 20th October 1641, and terminates on the 12th November 1656. The previous Registers have been lost. From an inscription on the volume (now forming the *second* of the series,) beginning in 1656, and ending 28th September 1687, it is called, “the “*fourth* volume of the Register of the Presbyterie of St. Andrewes.” It is evident, therefore, that in 1656 three older volumes were in existence. One of them, termed the *first*, appears to have been recovered by the Presbytery on 1st March 1654, for, “the quhilk day, the Clerk did produce the *first* “volume of the Presbyteries Register, quhilk was accepted thankfullie, and “the person quho refounded the same promised to be thankfullie satisfied.” But at the Revolution all the volumes were missing. In 1693, however, the register (which is now the *second* volume) was recovered from Mr. Alexander Fairweather, ‘Bibliothecarius in the New College,’ who was sometime Clerk to the Exercise of St. Andrews during Episcopacy: And in 1698 the Register from 1641 to 1656, was discovered by Mr. Alexander Sheilds, minister of St. Andrews, “among the bookes of Mr. James Wemyss, late “Princepall of Leonards Colledge, with which the Presbitrie were well satisfied,” and gave Mr. Sheilds “heartie thanks for his diligence and care in “recovering the said Register.” But the two earlier volumes appear to have been never recovered. As they must have related to the Episcopal period from 1600 to 1638, it is not improbable that they had been either seereted or destroyed by the Episopcal Clergy, who, on their deposition, generally carried off the church registers and utensils.

On the re-establishment of the Presbyterian religion in 1690, the Presbyteries of St. Andrews and Cupar, owing to the paucity of ordained ministers, were united into one judicature, and remained so until April 1693, when they were disjoined, as there was then “a compétent number “of ministers to each of the two Presbitries;” and as “both were desirous “to be disjoined again, and to act separatelie by themselves.” The first meeting of the Presbytery of St. Andrews, as a separate judicature, was accordingly held at St. Andrews on the 18th April 1693, on which day the *third* volume commences, and continues till 28th December 1698.

In the second volume, several blanks occur after 1662, which appear to have been intentionally left for the insertion of the proceedings of the Diocesan Synod, which were usually engrossed in the Registers of the various Presbyteries within the Diocese. In other respects the Registers of this Presbytery are in good preservation.

The Registers of the PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR have not been so carefully preserved. The earliest volume, which bears the Greek motto, Σὺν Θεῷ, on the first page, commences 6th October 1646, and ends 20th September 1660; all the previous records having been lost. A great hiatus occurs during Episcopacy, from 1662 to 1690, and it does not appear that the records of that period were delivered up at the Revolution. When this Presbytery was disjoined from that of St. Andrews in 1693, a new Register in quarto was commenced, which terminates on the 11th February 1702; after which the Records are regular and perfect. The first volume, from which alone extracts are given, is in excellent preservation, and contains much valuable and curious information; while the second possesses very little interesting matter, being mostly occupied with the details of settling ministers, and of censuring church delinquents.

The lithographed fac-similes of the signatures of those members of the Presbytery of St. Andrews, who subscribed the Solemn League and Covenant in 1643, or took the Test in 1681, are made from the originals exhibited to copies of those documents inserted in the Registers at the time. The fac-simile of the town of Cupar in 1642, is taken from a drawing made in that year by Mr. James Gordon, minister of Rothiemay, on his manuscript map of the County of Fife, preserved in the Library of the Faculty of Advocates.

G. R. K.

EDINBURGH,

1st February, 1837.

THE PRESBYTERY OF ST. ANDREWS.

1641-1698.

THE PRESBYTERY OF ST. ANDREWS.

AT ST. ANDROS, OCTOBER 20, 1641.

Inglis in Forgan.—Mr. David Forrett¹ declared, that yet he could not gett David Inglis broght to give obedience to the sentence of the Presbyterie, for his consultation with that woman suspect of witchcraft. He is appointed to compeir befor the Presbyterie the nixt day.

November 17.—Hamilton, advyse.—Mr. George Hamilton² requyred the advyse of the Presbyterie, how they sould proceid in thair sessioun with a fewar and ane eldar, both in his paroch, quho, on the Lords day in the kirkyeard, did breake out in ill wordes, till they came to lies befor the congregation. The Presbyterie thoght, for taking away the scandall, they sould confess thair fault befor the congregation on the Saboth, in thair owne feates.

November 29.—Borthwick to attend with the Comissioners.—The quhillk day the Presbyterie mett occasionallie, being advertised by the Moderatour. Their wer produced by the Moderatour two letters direct to the Presbyterie, one subscryved by the whole Commissioners appointed by our Par-

¹ Minister at Forgan ; transported to Kilconquhar 27th May, 1646.

² Minister at Newburn ; translated to Pittenweeme in February 1650 ; and deposed at the restoration of Episcopacy.

liament, for attending the Parliament of England, and another letter from the Comission of the Generall Assemblie, both of them earnestlie intreating the Presbyterie that they wold appoint ther brother Mr. Eleazor Borthwick, Minister at Leuchars, to goe to England with the foirsaid Comissioners, for discharcheing to them and ther attendants all ministeriall duties, shewing severall weghtie reas ons therfor. Compeared lykewayes diverse gentlemen from the paroch of Leuchars, earnestlie intreating ther case might be confidered, seeing they have bein destitute of a resident minister, for the most part these some yeirs past, and so that they wold not appoint ther Minister to leave them now. The said Mr. Eleazor shew severall reas ons, quhairfor it was not expedient that burden fould be laid vpon him. All quhilk reas ons, on all partes, being seriouf lie confiddered, the Presbyterie thoght the request of the Comissioners indeelnyneable, and thairfor appoints the said Mr. Eleazor to attend that charge.

Januar 5, 1642.—Relict of John Trewman.—The Presbyterie received a supplication from the relict of John Trewman, cruellie execute by the Depute of Ireland, for avowing our cause and Covenant, and his wife and fyve children spoyled of all ther meanes at the Deputes direction, earnestlie beseeching them to confidder her case, and to let her and her children be supplied out of the christian benevolence of ther parochiners. It was appointed, that her case fould be recommended by evrie Minister to ther severall congregations the nixt Saboth, and the Sabbath therafter appointed for collecting quhat they wold bestow for her releif, and the same to be broght in to the Presbyterie.

Februar 2.—Lady Fainton.—Mr. Robert Blair¹ declared, that he cold nocht have occasion to goe to my Lady Fainton throgh the intemperance of the weather. The Moderatour declared, he had bein at her, and dealt with her, bot fand her rather more obstinate than any other change. Mr. Samuell Rutherford and Mr. James Bruce² appointed to deall with her, and report ther diligence the nixt day.

Februar 16.—Lady Fainton.—These appointed to deale with my Lady

¹ Minister at St. Andrews.

² Minister at Kingsbarns.

Fainton, declared they had bein at her, and reasoned with her, and in reasoning broght her to diverse absurdities, bot, for any thing they could sie, saw small or no hopes of change, or that by such dealing she shuld be broght to quyte her errors.

Beggars children.—Mr. Robert Traill and Mr. David Monro¹ requyred the judgment of the Presbyterie, That quhairas beggars coming to ther paroches, and bringing foorth children thair, and desires to have ther children baptized by them; quho, being asked a warrand that they ar married, they can produce none bot ther owne word, and, being tryed in ther knowledge of the grounds of religion, they fand them altogether ignorant, not having the verie letter of the Beleife,—If they fall baptize these children or not? The Presbyterie advysed them not to baptize them.

Releife of those chased out of Ireland.—The quhilk day was produced befor the Presbyterie ane A&t given out by the Lords of Counsell, requyring and desireing all Presbyteries, Ministers, and Elders within this kingdome, to deale with ther severall paroches, to contribute for the help of these quho are chased out of Ireland, and robbed of all ther goods by the cruetie of the Rebells; quhilk was aggried vnto, and all convenient diligence appointed to be vsed for that effect.

Februar 23.—Lawmonth chased by Rebells.—Compeired John Lawmonth,² sonne to vmquhile Mr. Allane Lawmonth, sometyme minister at Scoonie, shewing to the brethren how he was chased out of Ireland by the cruetie of the Rebells, hardlie escaping with his life, and is destitute of any meanes for mantaineing him, or his wife and children. The Presbyterie appointed to give him 40 lb. of that quhilk remaines of the last collection for the relict of Johne Trewman; and, quhen the generall collection is gathered, that he be recomendied to the distributors thairof.

March 23.—Admision of Bennett to Kyrenie.—The Presbyterie mett at Kylrinnie for admision of Mr. Robert Bennett, quhair the Moderator did preach, Is. 6. 9.

Inglis referred to ther Session.—David Inglis being called, compeired, and acknowledged befor the Presbyterie, that quhat he did in going to that woman was out of ignorance, not thinking it to be such a fault as now he

¹ Ministers at Ely and Kilconquhar.

² He had been Minister at Temple-Patrick in Ireland.

saw it to be, and now referred himselfe to the Presbyterie for his censure. They referred him to ther Sessio[n].

Woman fyld in Abercrumbie Paroch.—Mr. Robert Wilkie¹ declared, that they had already wared, out of the poores boxe, fiftie merks upon that poore woman and her children in ther paroch, fyld by her husband with the French poxe,² but she is no better, because they can have none to waite upon her; and that now they are dealeing with a woman in Perth, quho hes vndertaken to cure them in a short tyme, and to find caution so to doe, bot will have ane hundred merks in hand, quhilk they are not able to give; and therfor desired the Presbyterie to find some course for the same, how it may be done, that the poore woman and children be not lost. Because it behooved to be presentlie advanced, the Presbyterie desired these of Abererumbie to find some way for that, and ordained everie paroch to pay so much, as they pay to the bursare of Theologie, for ther releife.

Apryle 21.—Sir Johne Scotts Carte.—Anent the reference to the severall Presbyteries concerning Sir Johne Scotts Geographie Cart, all exhorted to vse diligence therein.³

May 4.—Carte.—To the end greater diligence may be vsed in drawing vp the bounds of this Presbyterie for Sir Johne Scotts Carte, the Presbyterie have divyded the same in these severall quarters: *Firſt*, The paro-

¹ Minister at Abercrombie.

² This was, perhaps, a disease which, in Scotland, is called *Sivvens*, and is viewed as of the venereal kind. It was so loathsome, and supposed to be so contagious, that not many years ago, some infected persons were publicly denounced from the pulpit of a parish in the north, and all intercourse with them forbidden.

³ The publication of the large Atlas of Scotland, by Bleau at Amsterdam, in 1655, was an undertaking originally commeneed by Timothy Pont, and carried on by Sir Robert Gordon of Straloch, and his son Mr. James Gordon, minister at Rothiemay, at the expense, it is said, of Sir John Scot of Scotstarvet, Director of the Chaneery. Sir John proeured an order of the Generall Assembly, directing such ministers as were desired by the persons employed in making the surveys, to aid them in their accounts of the respective shires. The original map of Fife, with the Friths of Forth and Tay, drawn “ by James Gordon, fil. R. G. de Straloch, 1642,” is preserved in the Advocates Library, Edinburgh. It is possessed of additional interest, as the very neat and accurate plans of the towns of St. Andrews and Cupar drawn in the corners, were not engraved along with the reduced copy of the map for Bleau’s Atlas.

chines of Ferrie, Forgan, and Leuchars, and for drawing vp the bounds of these, did appoint Scottscraig, Naughton, and Pitlethie; *secound*, St. Andrewes, Dininnow, Kembok, St. Leonards, for these, Kembok, Kinkell, Piterthie; *third*, The whole coast fyde, and for them, Barnes, Balfour, Randerston, Mr. Robert Lamie, Lundie, Ardroffe, Kincraig: and these appointed to vse diligence heirin.

Salt pannes and salmon fishing.—These quho have salt pannes or falmond fishing in ther congregations, are appointed to vse all meanes with them, quhairby they may be keeped from breaking the Lords day quho worke therin.

The Presbyterie, being informed, that the greatest part of the Comifioners to the parliament of England are to come home, and fearing leaſt ther brother Mr. Eleazar Borthwicke be ſolicited to ſtay, have appointed a letter to be written to him, defyring him to returne with the firſt, for diuerſe weightie reaons.

June 8.—Abuſe at Penny Brydells.—The quhilk day the Presbyterie taking to ther conſideration, and being informed of the great abuſe that is in many parts of this Presbyterie at Penny Brydells, It is ordained, that all the miñters within the bounds of this Presbyterie make intimation to all pairties quho are to be maried, that they neither exced in number nor price, the ordinance of the Justice of peace, and that he take the parties enacted to give obedience therto, vnder paine of loſeing ther penaltie.

These quho were appointed to view the bounds of this Presbyterie, for Sir John Scotts Carte, ar appointed to vſe diligēce therin.

June 22.—Groſſe faults.—It was regreſted by diuerſe brethren, that ſome groſſe faults, ſuch as ſtrikeing, and groſſe drunkards, did escape without censure, for want of a generall ordour for all of that kynd; quhilk is referred to the nixt day.

July 20.—James Lennox, Thomas Lennox, and Johne Wanne, falmond fishers in the paroch of Leuchars, enacted, with ther owne conſent, never to ſhutt a nett on the Sabbath, vnder the paine of twentie punds, *toties quoties*.

Januar 18, 1643.—Norie.—Mr. Robert Norie, Profeffor of Humanitie

in St. Leonards College, discharged to preach any in these bounds, till he produce befor the Presbyterie his testimoniall of the passeing of his tryalls, which he is appointed to doe the first day of meeting by the morne.

Januar 26.—Norie.—Compeired Mr. Robert Norie, and declared, that the reason of his not comeing to the Presbyterie, and shewing his testimoniall, did not proceid from any contempt, bot because at his entrie ther he was absolutlie discharged by his patron to preach any, nor was he certaine of his residence in that place ; bot at the removall of Mr. Williame Bruce, quho was a helper with the Principall, he preached sometymes at the Principalls desire ; bot now is willing to produce the same, and did so. The said Mr. Robert being posed for vttering somethings in a fermon ther, seeming to refle&t vpon the proceidings for the publicke cause, which was judged so much the more dangerous, as being delyvered to such a auditore, as namelie, “ That we ought not to speak of God bot to God, nor of Kings bot for Kings, in prayer ; bot such is the corruption of men, that Kings, for the most part, have moe critickes then good subje&ts, that takes vpon them to censure not only ther publicke a&ctions, bot even ther private and dome&sticke affaires, yea ther verie thoughts and intentions.” The first part quhairof, to these wordes, “ who takes vpon them to censure,” etc., he acknowledged he spake. The Presbyterie having enquyred quhat his text was, and finding no coherence at all betuixt this speach of his and any purpose in the wordes, they thoght it seemed they were spoken out of ane evill mynd and intention, and therfor ordained Mr. Samuell Rutherford and Mr. James Wood¹ to confer with him privatelie, and to try his mynd, and report to the Presbyterie the nixt day, and in the meanetyme discharges him of preaching till that be cleired.

Feberwar.—Norie.—These appointed to speake with Mr. Robert Norie declared, that he refuses to acknowledge the wordes he spake to be scandalous, seeing he spake of no particular, only he is forie that the Presbyterie sould [have] taken offence at them ; quhilk the Presbyterie judged not satissa&orie, and so ordaines thame, with Mr. Robert Blair, yet to deale farther with him.

¹ Professor of theology in the University of St. Andrews.

March 15.—Act for publick and commoun faults revived.—The Presbyterie feriouſlie conſidering the great abounding of the scandalous finnes of drunkennes, curseing and fweareing, notwithstanding of the A&t made heir-to-foir againſt them, of the deatt March 24, 1641, and ratiefied by the Provinciall Asſemblie nixt following, doe appoint and ordaine that the foirſaid A&t be revived, and intimate in the feveral kirkes within the bounds of this Presbyterie, and that brethren, at the intimation therof, make choife of ſuch texts of Scripture as ar fitteſt to worke in the heartes of people a deteſtaſion of the foirſaid finnes; And lykewayes, the Presbyterie ordaines that the feveral Sessions within ther bounds be carefull to ſie the foirſaid finnes dewlie cenzured; viz. for the finne of drunkennes, that thoſe quho heir-to-foir have beene knownen to be scandalous becauſe of it, fall, for the verie firſt fault, declare ther repentaſce befor the Congregation; and theſe quho have not beene remarked to have beene scandalous of befor fall, for the firſt fault, declare ther repentaſce befor the Session, and for the ſecond befor the Congregation; and if any, after the ſecond or thrid cenſure, fall continue in this groſſelie scandalous finne, that they be debarred from the Sacrament of the Lords Supper, ay and while they give evident ſignes of ther repentaſce and reformation. And for the other finne of curseing and fweareing, the Presbyterie ordaines that everie minister within this bounds be exa&tie carefull for the repreſſeing and cenzuring therof, be takeing ſuch course with advyſe of the Session as falbe found fitteſt for the fame, not only by enjoyneing vnto theſe quho, after the firſt and ſecond admonitions, falbe found to goe on in the finne, that they declare ther publicke repentaſce in the face of the Congregation, but alſo that ſome pecuniiall mul&t be inflit&ed, according to the qualitie of the perfon. And lykewayes, the lyke cenſure for theſe quho abſent themſelves from the appointed dyetts of catechifeing twyſe in end, without ſome relevant excuse. And that all elders be adverſized to deprehend ſuch as they fall find guiltie of flyteing, raileing, miſcalling any of ther neighbours, althoſh ther be no plaint of partie, and ordaines that ſuch fall ſatiffie as if the partie did com-plainte: As alſo, that they be faithful dilators of theſe quho, without relevant excuse, abſent themſelves from publicke worship on the Lords day, alſo well of theſe quho profane the fame by workeing.

Faults publicke thogh betweene Man and Wife, to be publicklie censured.— Anent the question propounded by Mr. Colen Adams¹ concerning a scandalous disorder within his charge, betwixt a man and his wife, quho were outragiouslie blaspheming and curseing in such sort that the neighbours were conveeneing about the doores, he himselfe being eare and eye witnes of this great disorder; quho having dilated the same to the Session, and one of parties compeired before them, and convicted of the abuse, said miscarriage, and sentenced: Yet one member of the Session did, after the sentence, oppose the censure, alledging, that none must meddle betweene man and wife. His question was, what ought to be done in this case? The answere of the Presbyterie is, That it is out of all question, that the parties dilated, thogh man and wife, yet ought to be censured publiklie seeing it brake out in so publicke a way. As also, that quhosoever opposed, after the sentence ought to be summoned befor the Presbyterie; bot the latter part heirof is delayed by the requeist of the said Mr. Colen made to the Presbyterie.

Sandielands.— These quho were appointed to try of David Sandelands, whither or not, quhen he did cover his head in the kirk of Pittenweeme, at the reiding of the Warning and Declaration, quhen all others were discovered, was done by him out of contempt or not, declares, that his answere was, That he did it not out of contempt. The Presbyterie thought that at least he shoulde declare that befor them, and appointed them yet to speake to him for that effect.

Marche 22.—Salt Pannes.— Anent the reference made the last day concerning the salt pannes, Mr. Arthur Myrton² declared that the greeves³ were cited to be heir. The greeve of Barnes pans shew that his pannes rests from sixe on the Sabbath morning till sixe on Monday morning. The Presbyterie desired he might stryve to keepe the whole Sabbath more punctuallie. Lykewayes, Mr. John Melvill⁴ declared that the pannes in Pittenweeme doe rest all the Sabbath.

¹ Minister of Anstruther-Easter.

² Mr. Arthur Myrton or Morton was minister of Crail. He wrote a Treatise called the Touchstone of Conversion, 12mo. Lond. 1642. ³ Overseers.

⁴ Minister of Pittenweem; died before 8 August 1649.

Marche 29.—Recomendatioun from the Lords of Counsell.—This day there was a letter presented to the Presbyterie direct from the Lords of his Majesties Privie Counsell, to Sir Thomas Myrton of Cambo, one of there number, desyreing him to requyre there concurrence and affistance for dealing with such within the bounds of this Presbyterie quho are able to advance any money for a tyme, for the supplie of the armie sent out heir to Ireland, for the suppreffing of the Irish rebels, till the Parliament of England, quho are oblied to mantaine them, can have tyme to furnish them; which money the said Parliament of England obliethes themselves shortlie to repay. The Presbyterie does nominate the Laird of Scottis-craig, Colonell Lumidell, and Mr. Robert Blair for that effect, and desires them to vse all expedition heirin, and they to joyne to themselves any other minister quhom they know to be of greatest credite with the persons with quhom they are to deale.

Apryle 19.—This day the Moderator, in name of the Ministers of the Presbyterie, did, at there command and direction, subscryve the band for the lone for the releife of Ireland, for the sowme of fyve hundred pounds sterling, to be advanced by them with all possible diligence.

Apryle 26.—Act for Penny Brydells, Baptismes, and Contractes.—The Presbyterie perceiving the great abuse that still is among the most part of the comons, by gathering of multitudes to penny brydells, notwithstanding of the severall autes made against the same, both by Justice of Peace and Presbyterie, it is appointed that ministers falbe peremptor in prosecuteing the tenour of the act of the Justice of Peace, and that at the contracting they fall take the parties enacted in the Session booke, that they fall not exceed the number designed ther, vnder the paine of loseing ther penaltie. And because of the great abuse that is lykewayes among them by conveening multitudes at baptismes and contractes, the ministers and fessions are appointed to take strict order for restraineing these abuses, that in number they exceed not fixe or seven. As also ordaines that the hostlers quho mak such feifts falbe censured by the fessions. And the Presbyterie to crave particular account of ministers and fessions ther diligence heirin, that if they be found remisse, they may be censured ac-

cordinglie, and ordaines this a&t to be intimate in everie pulpitt of this Presbyterie the nixt Lords day save one.

May 3.—Vniverfitie to subscryve the Covenant.—All the members within the Vniverfitie, masters and students, are appointed to subscryve the Covenant againe, and Mr. Samuell Rutherford, Rector, is appointed, befor the subscription therof, to have some explication of quhat points in it may be difficle to these of younger yeirs and meaner capacities.

May 24.—Law divorced.—The Presbyterie declares that Jonat Law, divorced from Thomas Murray, befor the Comissers of Edinburgh, may marie another man.

July 12.—Sandielands.—Compeired befor the Presbyterie Sir James Sandielands younger of St. Monnance, and is desired to declare whither or not he adheres to the Croffe Petition; who desired that some might speake to him privatelie the beginning of the nixt weeke, at which tyme he fall give satisfaction. The Presbyterie have appointed the Moderator, Mr. David Monro, Mr. Johne Melvill, Mr. Robert Traill, the Lairds of Monereiff and Ardroffe, James Airth in Pittenweeme, to meitt ther and heare his declaration, that if he passes from it he fall come befor the Presbyterie and declare the same, and if he adheres to it that then he falbe summoned to compeer befor the Presbyterie.

Mr. Colein Adams, James Bruce, Robert Traill, James Wood, and Robert Blair appointed to goe to Craill on Thuresday, and speake some witches apprehended ther.

July 26.—Sandielands.—These quho were appointed to speake to Sir James Sandielands, declared they had not received satisfaction concerning his passing from the Croffe Petition; quho being called, compeired not. The Presbyterie have appointed him to be summond to compear befor the approaching Generall Assemblie.

Netts setting in the Lords Day.—The Presbyterie appoints ther Comissioners to the Generall Assemblie to crave ther advyee concerning the setting of netts for herring vpon the Lords Day.

Commissioners to be payed.—The Presbyterie have appointed, that henceforth the Comissioners to the Generall Assemblie falbe payed befor the Assemblie of ther charges by the Ministers of the Presbyterie, till another

course be found, and appoints the Moderator to borrow ane hundredth pounds for this tyme.

August.—*Delay of burning witches.*—The Presbyterie have appointed Mr. George Dewar,¹ Mr. Robert Wilkie, and Mr. Robert Bennett, to deale with the Judges and Bailleis of Anstruther, that they may delay the execution of some witches they have in hands, till the Presbyterie appoint some to speake with them.

August 16.—It is thought fitting, that minifters within this Presbyterie, doe advertise the Presbyterie befor any witches with them be put to execution.

Mr. David Monro, the Moderator, Mr. James Wood, Mr. Robert Wilkie, to goe to Anstruther-Wester, to sie the execution of some witches ther; and that they goe to Anstruther-Easter and Craill, to speake with some quho are apprehended for witches.

Monuments of superstition.—The Presbyterie being informed, that ther are some monuments of superstition vpon the house of Pitculo, in the paroch of Leuchars, have appointed Mr. Johne Barron,² and Mr. David Forrett, to goe to the said house, and take notice quhat monuments of that kynd are therupon, and report to the Presbyterie the nixt day.

August 23.—The Moderator, Mr. James Bruce,³ and Mr. James Wood, are appointed to speake to these quho are apprehended for witches in St. Andros; and to attend the execution of two witches vpon Fryday nixt.

Millars.—The millars of Peikie, Parke, Kenlie, and Kingsbarne mylnes, appointed to be summoned to compeir befor the Presbyterie the nixt day, for the breake of the Lords day, by making ther mylnes to goe vpon it.

Obedience to the act of Session.—A widow man in the Paroch of Dinninow, quho hes a woman living in the house with him, with quhom he is slandered for fornication, is appointed to obey the act of the Session in putting her out of his house, otherwayes to summond him to compeir befor the Presbyterie.

¹ Minister of Anstruther-Wester; deposed 21 Nov. 1644, for immorality and malignancy.

² Minister of Kemback; he was at the same time second master, and afterwards Provest of the Old College of St. Andrews.

³ Minister of Kingsbarns.

August 30.—Millars.—The millars of Peikie, Parke, Kenlie, and Kingsbarne mylnes, compeired, acknowledged ther breake of the Lords day; the Presbyterie referres ther censure to the severall kirk sessions quher they dwell.

Superstitious monuments.—Mr. David Forrett shew that he and Mr. Johne Barron wer at the house of Pitcullo, and declares ther are vpon the frontispeece of the house some monuments of superftition. The Presbyterie appoints a letter to be writen to the Lord Burghley, intreating him to give order for demolishing all monuments of that kynd.

Adryee.—Mr. Colein Adams, Mr. Robert Traill, and the Moderator, appointed to goe to Anstruther-Westre, to conferre with some quho are apprehended for witches ther; and to give ther advyee to the Judges if the dilations against Isobell Dairfie be sufficient for apprehending and trying of her.

Mr. David Forrett, Mr. James Wood, and Mr. Robert Traill, appointed to speake to some laitelie apprehended in St. Andros, to sie if they can bring them to any confession.

September 6.—Advyce—Mr. Robert Blair, Mr. Robert Traill, Mr. James Wood, and the Laird of Cambo, appointed to meitt at Craill and give ther advyee, whither the presumptions and dilations against two in that towne be sufficient for apprehending and tryall.

Gudlad in St. Andros.—One in St. Andros quho rode vpon the Lords day to Burghley, under pretence of going to a Communion, bot did it indeid to deale with my Lord Burghley, for interposing his moyen for releasing Margaret Balfour, now apprehended to be tryed for a witch, is appointed to satififie as a breaker of the Lords day; and ordaines that finne also of dealing for such to be laid out befor him; and so is appointed to obey quhat the Session fall enjoyn him to doe.

Slanderers and concealers.—The Presbyterie being informed that ther be some quho flander these for witches, against quhom ther is neither presumption nor dilation, appoints such to be censured by the Sessions quher they remaine, as most notorious slanderers. As also ordaines such as conceales any presumption of any quho are apprehended, quhen it fall come to light, they are appointed to be censured by Sessions also.

September 13.—Moreis for touching for the Cruells.—Johne Moreis, in the Paroch of Carnbie, appointed to compeir befor the Presbyterie the nixt day, for takeing vpon him to heale the Cruelles by touching them, as the seventh sonne of a woman.¹

The dilations against Helen Scheivis for a witch, being related to the Presbyterie, they gave ther advyce to apprehend and try her.

September 20.—Ministers to send out a man to the Armie.—The Presbyterie received a letter from the Committee of Estates, shewing ther desire that everie minister may send out a sojour to the present expedition, of which regiment, the Laird of Scottisraig is appointed Colonell; quhairto the Presbyterie did heartilie acquiesce.

Moreis in Carnbie.—Johne Moreis, in the Paroch of Carnbie, acknowledging to the Presbyterie, that he, as the seventh sonne of a woman, touches for cureing the Cruells, being examined, and it being found that he did it ignorantlie, is discharged to vse that any more to any, vnder paine of Kirk censures.

October 11.—Advyce.—The Moderator and Mr. Arthur Myrton, are appointed to goe to Anstruther-Wester, vpon Fryday nixt, and give ther advyce to such Judges as falbe present ther concerning Isbell Dairfie, how shée falbe vsed in meate, drinke, sleepe, bed, and the lyke.

October 18.—Covenant.—The Presbyterie received a letter from the Commissioners of the Generall Assemblie, with some copies of the solemne League and Covenant for reformation of Religion, the honour and happiness of the King, and the peace and safetie of the thrie kingdomes of Scotland, England, and Ireland, requyreing the Presbyterie to vse all diligence for causeing the severall congregations subscryve and sware the

¹ The gift of curing the *Cruels* or scrofula by the touch, was supposed to be an inherent prerogative of our Kings, who often put it in practice. Charles I. when he visited Scotland in 1633, on St. John's day, "heallit 100 persones of the cruelles or King's evill, yong and olde." It would appear, however, that a *seventh son*, who is superstitiously believed to be endued by nature with *infallibility* as a *doctor*, also possessed this imaginary virtue. "It is manifest, by experience, that the seventh male child by iust order, (neuer a girle or wench being borne betweene,) doth heale only with touching (through a naturall gift) the King's evil: which is a speciaill gift of God given to Kings or Queenes, as daily experience doth witnesse." LUPTON'S NOTABLE THINGS, edit. 8vo. 1631, p. 28.

same. This day, the whole Presbyterie, ministers and elders, subferyved the same, and appointed it to be read and explained in everie kirk of this Presbyterie by the minister; and the nixt Lords day therafter, that it fall be solemnlie sworne by all, with fasting and humiliation, and all maner of religious solemnities, according to the ordinance of the saids Comissioners, and therafter to proceid with all convenient diligence to the subfcryving therof by all.

November 15.—Blair complaines of Lundie.—Mr. Robert Blair declared, that quhill he and his colleague, Mr. Andro Honyman,¹ with the Gudman of Kembok, and James Wood, baillie of St. Andros, being sent by the Session of St. Andros to Sir James Lundie, inhabitant in the said citie, to desire him to keepe the dyetts of the publicke worship of God, he having neir the space of ane twelvemoneth deserted the same, he was so fare from promiseing amendement, that he behaved himselfe injuriouslie toward the said Mr. Robert Blair, and quhen his hatt was in his hand, he put his on his head, and gave him a directe lic. The Presbyterie ordaines him to be summond to compeir befor them the nixt day.

Attend burning of witches.—Mr. Robert Blair, Mr. Colein Adams, Mr. Robert Traill, and Mr. James Wood, are appointed to goe to Craill on Fryday, and attend the execution of some witches; and give ther advyce to the Judges concerning the dilations against others, if they may be apprehendit and tryed.

November 29.—Covenant.—This day the Presbyterie received a letter from the Comission of the Generall Assemblie, requyreing them to vrge all English in ther bounds to subferyve the late League and Covenant, and to send over the names of all such as refuses or delayes to subfryve to them, that they may be delyvered to the English Comissioners. They received also another letter, requyreing inspection to be takin if all in ther owne paroches have subferyved and sworne the same, and to send over the names of refusers or delayers to them. The Communion Rolles and Covenants, are appointed to be brought in to the Presbyterie this day moneth, to St. Andros.

¹ Minister at St. Andrews, and afterwards Bishop of Orkney. He wrote a Survey of Napthali, and other controversial works.

December 28.—Letter from Lord Balcarras—The Presbyterie received a letter from the Lord Balcarras, desireing that they wold appoint one of ther number to be minister to his regiment of horses. In regard they are alreadie engadged to furnish the Erle of Lindsay his regiment of a minister, and the Presbyterie of Cuper furnish none, his Lordship is desired to have his recourse to them for that effect.

Januar 11, 1644.—Lundie compeired.—Compeired Sir James Lundie, Knycht, quho, being posed vpon the particular points contained in the lybell, acknowledged he had not beene in the church of St. Andros for the space of ane twelvemoneth, bot alledged he was not to blame, because he could not have a feate in the kirk. As for giving a lie to Mr. Robert Blair, he denyes that, only being much provoked by the said Mr. Robert, he said, “If yee wer another man, Sir, I wold fay, yee lie.” The Presbyterie appoints Mr. Andro Honyman, the Gudman of Kembok, and James Wood, baillie of St. Andros, to be summoned as witneses in that buffnes againe Wedinsday nixt, and warnes the said Sir James *apud acta* to compeir the said day to heare the witneses examined.

The Presbyterie intreated ther brother Mr. James Bruce, to remember the Erle of Lindsay to give a generall comission for apprehending, trying, and judgeing of such as are or falbe dilated for witches within the Stewartrie.

Advyce for Witches.—The Presbyterie did appoint Mr. David Monro, Mr. Colein Adams, Robert Wilkie, Robert Traill, Arthur Myrton, Johne Melvill, ministers; Lathallen, James Airth, and Johne Alexander, ruling elders, to meitt with the Judges at Pittenweeme, and give ther advyce, if, vpon the dilations against Christane Dote in St. Minnance, shee may be apprehended and tryed.

Januar 17.—Advyce approven.—Thoſe quho went to Pittenweeme at the Presbyteries direction to give ther advyce concerning the dilations against Christane Dote, declared they found the dilations ſufficient to apprehend and try her.

*Januar 24.—*Mr. Colein Adams, Mr. Robert Traill, Mr. Arthur Myrton, and Mr. Robert Bennett, to goe to Anſtruther the morne, and attend the execution of Isbell Dairſie.

Recommendation.—The Presbyterie does recommend it to the Laird of Randerston, being one of the Judges quhom the Erle of Lindsay hes depute, that he and some others with him will apprehend Christane Dote, dilated for a witch, that shee may be put to tryell.

Februar 7.—Lundie compeired.—Compeired Sir James Lundie, Knycht, quho objected only that he did not give Mr. Robert Blair a direct lie. The witnessses being presented, he was desired to shew if he had any thing to object against any one or all of them, why they might not be admitted witnessses in that particular, quho objected, that they, being coniunct commissioners at that tyme with Mr. Robert Blair, could not be admitted as witnessses in that particular. Which objection the Presbyterie having confiddered, found that, notwithstanding of that objection, they may and ought to be admitted witnessses, because the particular offence is done against Mr. Robert Blair; as also, because the controverfie could not be otherwayes decided. Wherevpon the saids witnessses were particularlie sworne to declare the truth in that busines, in so farre as they know or falbe speired at; and all removed.

Mr. Andro Honyman being examined, declared, That the said Sir James being accused for staying so long from the publicke worship of God in the kirk, he promised no amendment, bot behaved himselfe rudely toward Mr. Robert Blair, with his hatt on his head, quhen Mr. Roberts was in his hand, and said, “If yee will say that, Sir, I will say, yee lie; or if any in Scotland will say it, I will say he lies.”

Kembok declared, That amendment in staying from the kirk he promised none; but advancing with his hatt on his head, with his hand stretched out as if he wold strike, he said, “Whoever, even the best in the land, will say that which yee say, I will say he lies.”

James Wood, baillie, declared, That he promised no amending of his staying from the kirk, bot earied himselfe in a rude and injurious way to the said Mr. Robert: He said, “It is a lie, Sir, yee say, and if the best in the countrey wold say it, I wold say the lyke.”

Thus the whole lybell being partie confessed and partie proven, the said Sir James is warned *apud acta* to compear befor the Presbyterie the nixt day, to heare ther sentence pronounced.

Some appointed to meitt at Silverdyke and Pittenweeme.—The Presbyterie doe appoint the Moderator, Mr. Arthur Myrton, David Monro, John Heart,¹ Robert Bennett, and John Melvill, James Lentron, John Alexander, John Livingstone, to meitt at Silverdyke with a quorum of the Judges, and confidder of the dilations against Margret Myrton, concerning charmeing and consulteing with witches, and give ther advyse quhat course to take with her. As also, to meitt at Pittenweeme and give ther advyse concerning the watching of Christane Dote, and her dyett of sleepe, bed, meate and drinke.

Vakeing Kirks to send out Men—The paroches whose kirks are vakeing are appointed to send out ther men for Scottifraigs regiment, aff the first end of the stipend, according to the ordinance of the Convention of Estates and Comission of the Assemblie.

Februar 21.—Report of these quho went to Silverdyke and Pittenweeme.—These quho had comission given to confidder the dilations against Margaret Myrton in Silverdyke, concerning consulteing with witches and charmers, declared, that they fand her to be deiplie guiltie of these, yea likelie to be guiltie of witchcraft in diverse particulars, quhervpon they did advyse the Judges to apprehend and try her; quherin they are approven. As also that they did meitt at Pittenweeme, where they did give ther best advyce to a quorum of the Judges, concerning the fitteſt way of watching and trying Christane Dote in St. Minnance.

The Presbyterie appoints Mr. David Monro, Mr. Colein Adams, Mr. Arthur Myrton, Mr. John Melvill, and Mr. Robert Bennett, with Mr. Andro Honyman, to be present at the confrontation of Christane Dote in St. Minnance, and Margaret Balfour in St. Andros, with Beatie Dote in Craill.

Lykewakes and Burialls.—The Presbyterie being verie sensible of the great abusess within these bounds at lykewakes and burialls, especiallie by drinking after the same, doe appoint Mr. James Bruce, and Mr. Andro Honyman, to confidder of overtures for restraineing therof, and represent them to the Presbyterie the nixt day.

Februar 21.—Lundies excuse.—This day Sir James Lundie sent ane

¹ Minister at Crail, translated to Denino, December 1646, and to Dunkeld, December 1650.

excuse of his inhabilitie to appeare befor the Presbyterie, therfor desired they wold delay to pronounce thair sentence till the nixt day. The Presbyterie appointed Doctor Colvill, and Mr. James Wood to deale with him for submitting to the Presbyterie, and appoints him to be summond to compeir the nixt day.

March 20.—Lykewakes and Burialls.—The Presbyterie, confiddering of the great abuses and manifold difforders that are frequentlie at night wakeings of the dead and burialls, which tend to the great dishonour of God, the scandall of the Gospell, and fostering of superstition and profanitie, have appointed and ordained, and by thir presents doe appoint, that people at these tymes when the dead are in the house, hold there doores close as at other tymes, and that they give no entrance to the confusd multitude quho frequent such occasions: and lykewise ordaines such as goe to the place where the dead are, not being invited by the freinds of the dead, to be censured by Sessions as difforderlie walkers; and that the freinds, quho have the dead in ther house, fall call none to beare them companie bot thrie or foure grave kinffolkes or freinds quhom they thinke meetest; and they are to remember that it is not a tyme of eating or drinking, or making merrie after a wordlie maner, bot to carie themselves christianlie as becomes perfones professing godlines. As also, they appoint and ordaine, that that heathnisch custome, vnder a popish name, of drinking dirgies after the corpes are interred, be vtterlie abolished. As also, quhat the dead appoints to be given to the poore, or freinds thinke fitt to distribute that way, that they bring or send it to the Session of the congregation where the person dies, to be by them distribute to the poor, quho must best know the necessities of such, and can distribute the same more reasonablie and equallie than it can be done in so great a tumult of beggars as vse to be at the buriall place, where they that cryes most and have leaft neid, come often best speede.

March 27.—Reference to the Provinciall, Quhat falbe the censure of consulters with witches and charmers? As also, Quhat falbe the censure of such as are maried, and within a short tyme after brings foorth a child?

Apryle 24.—The Presbyterie doe appoint Mr. Arthur Myrton, and the

Laird of Randerston, to shew the Univerſitie, that it is ther earnest request that Mr. Thomas Lentron be preferred to the place of Bibliothecarian.

May 20.—Lundie and Blair.—These appointed to speake to Sir James Lundie declaired, they had discharged thair commiffion, and found him willing to submitt to thair sentence, yet now he alledges he was much provoked by Mr. Robert Blair befor he fpake any wordes in paſſion to him, which he offers to prove by witneſſes. The Presbyterie appoint him to compeir this day eight dayes, and bring any witneſſe he can in that busines, vtherwayes they will proceed to pronounce thair sentence.

June 12.—Sentence concerning Sir James Lundie.—The Presbyterie taking to confideration Sir James Lundie his buffines, and quhat his cenſure falbe, confiddering his age and infirmitie of bodie, doe appoint him to come befor the Presbyterie, and there to acknowledge that offence committed by him againſt Mr. Robert Blair, ſent to him in commission from the Seſſion of St. Andros; and at the ſaid Mr. Robert his returne, he is lykewayes appointed to come befor the Seſſion of St. Andros and doe the lyke; and the Presbyterie doe appoint the Seſſion of St. Andros to urge him and his familie to frequent the Kirk.

Beaton flandered of Adultrie.—Mr. Robert Bennett shew that one in his paroch apprehended for a witch, quho is now burnt for that fact, did a ſhort tyme after her apprehending (before ſhee confeſt herſelfe a witch) confeſſe that ſhee had committed adulterie with Alexander Beaton; and therafter ſaid, that her committing of that adulterie was the firſt caufe of that wickednes of witchcraft wherein ſhee has fallen; quho, being accused therof, both in private and befor the Seſſion, denies the fame; yea, quhen he was defired to ſtay to be confroneted with her for clearing himſelfe, promised to doe ſo, bot notwithstanding went over to Edinburgh and stayed ther till ſhee was brunt; and defires the Presbyteries advyce quhat falbe done therin. The Presbyterie ordaine him to be ſummond to compeir befor them the nixt day.

Norwell Inceſtuous.—Mr. James M'Gill¹ shew that James Smith, Sheriff depute, refutes to accept of Euphane Norwell, quho confiſſed inceſt the laſt day, to try or judge her; alledging that it belongs to the

¹ Minister at Largo.

Erle of Lindsay as Stewart. The Presbyterie doe desire Mr. James Bruce to declare this to Alexander Inglis of Kingask, quho is one of my Lords deputes, and one entrusted with my Lords effaires now quhen he is out of the country.

The Presbyterie doe appoint Mr. Colein Adams, Mr. David Monro, Mr. Robert Wilkie, Mr. Robert Bennett, Mr. Harie Rymer,¹ to goe to Pittenweeme, and deale with those quhom they have appreahended as witches.

June 26.—The Presbyterie doe appoint everie minister to try in his owne paroch, quho did fett fyres on Midsummer even, and cause cite such befor the Session to be censured by them.

July 3.—The Presbyterie appoint Mr. James Wood, Robert Bennett, Colein Adams, and Harie Rymer, to attend the execution of some witches in Pittenweeme on Monday nixt.

July 17.—Lundie compeired.—Compeired Sir James Lundie, and acknowledged his offence against Mr. Robert Blair. The Presbyterie defireid him to keepe the kirk, and told that they have ordained the Session to proceid against him with the censures of the Kirk if he doe it not.

August 7.—Wylies dilation.—Mr. James M'Gill shew to the Presbyterie dilations against Jonat Wylie, dilated for a witch in his paroch, defireing the Presbyteries advyce theranent. The Presbyterie doe thinke there is sufficient ground for appreahending and trying her.

August 21.—Cessation from servile worke on Weeke Dayes of Fasting.—According to a former appointment of the Presbyterie, they doe againe appoint and ordaine, that ther be a cessation from all servile worke vpon such weeke dayes as are appointed for solemne fasting and humiliation, aswell as vpon the Lords day, vnder paine of the censures of the Kirk.

November 7.—Thanksgiving.—The Presbyterie received a letter from the Commissioners of the Generall Assemblie, ordaineing a day of thanksgiving through the kingdome, on Thuresday come eight dayes, for the gaineing of Newcastle.

Roch not to be enlarged.—Compeired befor the Presbyterie, James Richiesone, baillie of Pittenweeme, and James Airth, clerk therof, requyreing the advyee of the Presbyterie, anent one Christane Roch, incarcerated there

¹ Minister at Carnbie.

for a witch, vpon thrie severall dilations of thrie confessing witches, quho have all suffered; as also, a *fama clamosa* for the space of twentie yeirs, and since her incarceration, they have found, by the search of the hangman, two markes; whither or not they might enlarge her vpon the earnest dealing of her husband, quho is vseing all means for obtaineing heirof. The Presbyterie, having taken the mater to there serious consideration, thoght the foirsaid presumptions so pregnant, that they could not bot advyse them not to enlarge her till farther tryell.

December 18.—A woman in Craill, quho confesses that shee hes not beene in the kirk at publicke worship thrie yeirs together, is appointed to come befor the congregation severall Sabbothes, and acknowledge her offence publickelie; and ordaines her to be put in the hands of the civile magistrate.

December 25.—Adryce concerning Ladie Carnbies buriall.—The advyce of the Presbyterie being desired, Whither Margret Melvill might be buried within ane yle of the kirk of Carnbie? The Presbyterie, having heard full information of the buffines on both parts, declare it to be ane breach of the a&t of the Generall Assemblie, if any take vpon them to burie her within the same.

The Presbyterie does referre it to the Generall Assemblie, quhat falbe the censure of such as are convict of charmeing, or consulting with witches.

Januar 22, 1645.—Sheiris rebuked.—Mr. Johne Sheiris did acknowledge his oversight in labouring to have Margret Melvill buried in the Yle of the kirk of Carnbie, and after confessing of his fault, was admonished by the Presbyterie, and promised to carie himselfe more duetifullie to the Presbyterie for afterward.

Mr. Johne Barron and Mr. James Bruce are appointed to joyne with the Magistrates of St. Andros, and the Erle of Craufurd Lindsay his deputes, on revising the particulars that are against some incarcerated for witches in St. Andros, and give ther advyce theranent.

March 12.—Camron Kirk.—The whilk day was produced to the Presbyterie, the A&t of Parliament for ere&tting the Kirk of Camron in a paroch, and designeing a manteinance therto; which diligence is approven by the Presbyterie, and the parochiners there are seriouslie desired to concurre

with the Presbyterie, to quhom the right of patronage belongs, to condescend vpon a man for filling that place.

Apryle 2.—Bonar.—This day it was shewn to the Presbyterie, that Thomas Bonar, servand to Sir James Sandielands, younger of St. Minnance, being drinking in Kylrinnie, they did sing a malignant song, and drinke drinkes to James Grahame, sometymes Montrois, and others. The Moderator and Mr. Harie Rymer are appointed to try in Kylrinnie, quhat further they can of that buffnes, and report ther diligence the nixt day.

Apryle 16.—Sandielands.—It was shewn to the Presbyterie, that David Sandielands, sonne to the Laird of St. Minnance, carrouseing in his cups, he did take a badge of gold from about his necke, and threw it into the cup, and wold drinke to the giver, quho is alledged to be *quondam* Montrois, and said that diverse of qualitie did wear the lyke badge. The Presbyterie referre the farther tryell therof to the Comissioners of the Generall Assemblie, and appoints a letter to be writen to them for that effect, and shewing that he intends presentlie to goe to France with my Lord Kellie, that such course may be taken as by them falbe thought most expedient.

Apryle 30.—Bonar.—These quho were appointed to try concerning Thomas Bonar declared, that they found it verified by thrie witneses, that he did sing these wordes :

Bobo Finla did command
The valiant Grahame and the Irish band
To beate the rebels out of the land.

And that he dranke a health to Bobo Finla. Both which he did therafter confess, alledging he knew not quhat Bobo Finla meant,¹ bot that he had heard diverse of note sing that song, and drinke that drinke in Edinburgh, a twelvemonth since : quho being called, compeired and acknowledged the same to the Presbyterie, bot wold not declare quhom he heard sing the song, or drinke the drinke. The Presbyterie referres the further tryell heirof to the Comissioners of the Generall Assemblie ; and in the meane-

¹ Perhaps by *Bobo Finla* was meant King Charles I.

tyme, desire the Magistrates of St. Andros to incarcerate him, till he be either safelie conveyed to Edinburgh, or sufficient caution found that he fall answer ther according to law.

Vagabond beggar.—Whereas the vagabond beggar, mentioned the former day, is willing to refide in a paroch, and to worke in his calling, he being a horner,¹ obleiching himselfe to be willing to be scourged through any towne quher he falbe found vageing heirafter, and to make satiffaction to the Kirk, and marie the woman that he may have his chyld baptizied; quhervpon the Presbyterie did appoint Mr. Johne Barron to baptize the chyld after the performance of these things.

Kelso.—This day the Presbyterie received a letter from the Comissioners of the Generall Asssemblie, shewing the great desolation of the towne of Kelso,² desyreing that they wold stirre vp those in the bounds to extend ther christian charitie for ther releife. The answere heirvnto is referred to the next day.

Sheiris.—A supplication from Helen Sheiris, incarcerated for a witch in St. Andros, referred.

May 14.—Persons to be maried to enact themselves at ther contract.—The Presbyterie doe appoint and ordaine that fuch persons as being requyred at the contracting will not submitt to enact themselves, according to the Acts of the Justice of Peace and Presbyterie, concerning the number of persons at mariages, that they be not proclaimed till they enact themselves to obey the same.

Bonar.—Whereas Thomas Bonar hath now beene fyftein dayes in the tolbuith of St. Andros, and no order taken for bringing him to Edinburgh, and he is poore and not able to intertwaine himselfe, it is appointed that he fall make his publicke repentance in Kyrrinnie and in Kilconquhar for his great miscariage; and fall therafter enact him selfe in the Seffion of Kilconquhar, and find caution to answer the Comissioners of the Generall Asssemblie quhen he fall be called for to them.

Bamuto and others drinking in St. Minnance.—Whereas it is certified to the Presbyterie, that in the house of St. Minnance, by persons quho were

¹ A maker of horn spoons, &c.

² Kelso at this tyme suffered severely from the plague.

ther at the Laird of St. Minnance buriall, healths were dranke, and elf-quher offered to be drunken, to Sir Marmaduke Langdell, Colkittoch, the Captaine of Athole, particularlie by the Laird of Bamuto, The Presbyterie doe recomend it to Mr. Thomas Black to represent that concerning Bamuto to ther Presbyterie in whose bounds he dwells; and doe appoint the Moderator and Mr. David Monro to try quhat further clearing they can have therof, and report ther diligence the nixt day.

June 4.—Report from Melvill.—Mr. James Wood declared, that the reasoun why Mr. Johne Melvill keepes not the dyets of the Presbyterie is because of the gutt. And that he acknowledges his omitting the prayer of consecration at the Table, bot alledges that he did that which he judges to be equivalent in the pulpitt; and that he did not reade the wordes of the institution at all, bot did relate them shortlie quhill he was distributeing the Elements; alledging quhat he did to be *scandalum acceptum*, not *scandalum datum*. He is appointed to come to the Presbyterie the nixt day, if he may possiblie.

Healths in St. Minnance.—Mr. David Forrett declared, that he posed Mr. Andro Monereiff concerning the drinkeing of James Grahame *quondam* Montrois his health, in the house of St. Minnance; quho confesses it was motioned and begunne, bot remembers not by quhom, only it was alledged to be by Bamuto; bot it went not about the table. Mr. Harie Rymer is appointed to vse further diligence in trying therof, and to advertise the Presbyterie of Kirkadie quhat he learns heirin.

June 11.—Melvills acknowledgment.—Mr. Johne Melvill being present, acknowledges his omission of the prayer of consecration at the Table to be against Christs institution, and the practise of our Kirk, and that he failed against the order of our Kirk in not reading the wordes of the institution befor the distributeing of the Elements. For the present it is appointed, that those quho were formerlie appointed to heare him preach, shall heare him twyse befor Mr. David Guthrie his admission.¹

¹ Mr. Johne was considered by his parishioners unedifying in his doctrine,—“ his memorie and judgement being now of a long tyme jumbled through his owne default,”—that there was “ too much wyne drunken in his house,” altho they had never “ seene him drunke, in respect he is an able man,” &c.

Regrate for exceffe in drinkiny.—Whereas it is regrated, that when the Committee meete at Couper ther is great exceffe in drinking vsed by some after ther meetings. As also, that those quho are appointed to plunder deficients drinke quhat they plunder, and give great offence that way. Mr. George Hamilton, Mr. James McGill, and Skedoway, are desired to represent the same to the Presbyterie of Couper, and to advyse with them quhat may be the best course for restraineing these abuses.

June 18.—This day the Presbyterie received the A&t of the Committee of Estaitis appointing a contribution for the help of the towne of Dundie; which is to be further thought vpon, for laying downe the way therof at more lenth.

Scot, millar in Anstruther.—The Presbyterie doe appoint James Scott to ena&t himselfe in the Session books of Anstruther Wester, that he fall not suffer his mylne to goe from midnight to midnight on the Lords day, vnder the ordinar paine.

July 9.—A&t against those quho fall befor Mariage.—The Presbyterie confiddering the ryfe vncleannes that is found amongst persons that proposes to enter in mariage together, quho, not expecting the solemne bleffing to ther mariage, and the prayers of Gods people, according to the godlie order of the Church, wickedlie defyle themselves with hope to shelter ther vncleannes from the censures of the Church by the following mariage; some that way ensnareing themselves in vnmeit mariages, without the knowledge and to the great greife of parents, and such as have interest in them, to the great scandall of the profession of the Gospell; provokeing God also this way to curse ther mariages for ther difforderlie runneing to it: Theirfor, for remedie heirof, and removeing the scandall ensueing hence, they have ordained, that heirafter such maried persons, of quhom it fall clearlie and certainlie appear, that befor ther mariage they have knownen one another, whither befor or after ther contract, fall publicklie declare ther repentance befor the congregation offended by ther cariage. And ordains this A&t to be published in pulpits that none pretend ignorance heirof, and to be registrate in the Session booke of the severall paroches within this Presbyterie.

July 23.—Guthries admission.—The Presbyterie mett this day at Anf-truther Wester for admission of Mr. David Guthrie.

August 11.—The Presbyterie received a letter from the Comission of the Kirk, together with a enclosed Paper, entituled “ ENORMITIES AND CORRUPTIONS IN THE MINISTRIE, AND THE REMEDIES THEREOF, RECOMMENDED TO THE SEVERALL PRESBYTERIES;” the tenour whereof followis ; and first the tenour of the letter.

REVEREND AND BELOVED BRETHREN,

BEING frequentlie heir by advyce and desire of the Honorable Estates of Parliament, and being also by them excited to make ane accurate search of the sinnes of the land, provokeing the Lord to so great indignation against vs, we did exhibite to them a new and necessarie Warning, breiflie containing the causes of our judgement, and the conceived remedies therof, which, for some reasons, is thoght fitt not to be printed at this tyme. Only, we signifie this to you, that in the end therof, we exhorted the severall States among themselves to make a striet inquisition of the sinnes most incident to themselves, that they might provocke one another to repentance, and zeale to God and his cause, and so make better vse of this then of our former Warnings ; and they accordinglie sett apart a tyme to that effect, and went about it. And we, quho did exhort others, thoght it incumbent to ourselves, seriouslie to search, and humblie and sadlie to acknowledge, the faults of our persons and callings, and such as were knownen to be too rife amongst vs of the Ministrie ; which was in a solemne way performed in one of our meetings, one by one, as the Lord touched everie mans heart and opened there mouth. Out of which speaches, the inclosed Catalogue of sinnes, and Remedies therof, was extracted, and the samen we thought good to transmitt vnto you, that yee, making vse therof, and reflecting your thoughts vpon your selves, may Presbyteriallie follow the same course, and give order that the samen be done in your severall Sessions ; desireing withall, that in each congregation, in a solemne humiliation, ther may be a confession and bewaileing of sinne, and a pressing of each familie privatelie to performe the samen, that so at last all Scotland may lament after the Lord, that his fierce wrath may depart from vs. Swa, hoping yee will not be deficient herein in so necessarie a tyme, we committ you and your labours to the blessing of God, and rests

Your loving brethren the Commissioners of the Generall Assemblie.

(Sic subr.)

Mr. WILLIAM BENNETT, *Moderatour.*

Perth, August 5, 1645.

Postscript.—This our Letter, together with the inclosed Articles, we requyre to be registered in the Presbyterie bookes for our exoneration.

ENORMITIES AND CORRUPTIONS OBSERVED TO BE IN THE MINISTRIE, WITH THE REMEDIES THEREOF.

ENORMITIES.

The first and maine sinne, reaching both to our personall carriage and callings, we judge to be, not studieing how to keepe communion and fellowshippe with God in Christ, but walking in a naturall way without employing of Christ, or drawing vertue from him, to enable vs vnto sanctification and preaching in spirit and power.

In our Lyres.

1. Much fruitles conversing in companie, and complying with the sinnes of all sorts, not behaving ourselves as becomes the men of God.
2. A great worldlines is to be found amongst vs, mynding and speaking most about things of this life, being busied about many things, but forgeting the maine.
3. Slighting of Gods worship in their families, and theirfor no cordiall vrgeing of it vpon others ; yea, altogether wanting of it in some, if it be credible.
4. Want of gravitie in carriage and apparrell, dissolutenes in haire, and shaking about the knies ; lightnes in the apparrell of ther wyves and children.
5. Tippling and bearing companie in vntymeous drinking in tavernes and ale-houses, or any quher els ; quherby the Ministrey is made vyle and contemptible.
6. Discountenancing of the godlie, speaking ill of them, because of some that are vnansuerable to their profession.
7. The Sabbath not sanctified after sermons, which maketh people thinke that the Sabbath is ended with the sermon.
8. Their are also to be found amongst vs, quho vse small and minced oathes.
9. Some so great strangers to Scripture, that, except in ther publicke ministrie, thogh they read many things, yet they are litle conversant in the Scripture, and in meditation therof, a duetie incumbent to all the people of God.

In our Callings.

1. Corrupt entrie into the ministrie in former tymes, and following the course of defection ; though forsaken yet never seriouslie repented : As also, present entring into the Ministrie as to a way of living in the world, and not as a spirituall calling.
2. Helping in, and holding in, of insufficient and suspected men, quho savour of the things of this life ; and keeping the doore straiter on them quhom God hath sealed, than vpon these quho have lesse evidence of the power of grace and holines.
3. Partialitie in favouring and speaking for the scandalous, whither Ministers or other persons, teaching them how to delay or shift censures.
4. Silence in the publicke cause, not labouring to cure the disaffection of people, not vrgeing them to constancie and patience in bearing of publicke burdeins, nor to forwardnes in the publicke cause, quherby Malignants are multiplied ; yea, some are so-grosse heirin, that even in publicke fasts, litle or nothing is to be heard from them sounding this way.

5. Some account it a point of wisdome to speake ambiguouslie ; some inclyne to justifie the wicked cause, vttering wordes which savour of disaffection ; and all ther complaining of the tymes is in such a way as may steale the hearts of people from lykeing of good instruments in this worke, and consequentlie from Gods cause ; yea some, reading publicke orders, are ready to speake against them in ther private conference.

6. Idlenes, either in seldome preaching, as once on the Lords day, or in preparation for publicke dueties, not being given to reading and meditation : others have bot fitts of paines, not lyke other tradsmen, continuallie at ther worke.

7. Want of zeale and love to the conversion of soules, not being weighted with the want of successe in reclaimeing of sinners, nor searching in themselves the cause of nocth profiteing ; preaching *ex officio*, nocth *ex conscientie officij*.

8. Selfe seeking in preaching, and a venting rather of their wit and skill, then shewing foorth of the wisdome and power of God.

9. Lifelesnes in preaching, not studieing to be furnished by Christ with power, and so the ordinance of God reacheth not to the conscience ; and heирto belongeth the not applying of the doctrine vnto the auditorie and tymes.

10. The indiscreit cureing of the indiscretion of pious people and ministers, quherby godlinnes hath gotten a deepe wound, and profanitie hath lifted vp the head, contrarie to that wise and gracious order set foorth in the Generall Assemblie holden at Edinburgh 1641.

11. Little care to furnish our Armie, either abroad or at home, with ministers : One of our greivous sins, and causes of our calamitie.

12. Last, it is to be feared that Ministers in secreit are negligent to wrestle in prayer, for a blessing to be poured out vpon ther labours, contenting themselves with the publicke performances.

REMEDIES.

1. First, That Presbyteries make great conscience to have all vacant places within ther severall bounds filled with godlie and able men, quher ever they be to be found : And that vnder pretence of being a helper or second to another, none be taken in bot such as are able for the same charge.

2. Whereas it is knownen that private tryalls in Presbyteries are for the most part perfunc-torius, the brethren are heirby exhorted to be more serious, and faithfull heirin, as they wilbe answerable to Christ, the cheife shepherd. And in a way prævious therto, that brethren be frie in loving admonition, one of another secretlie, from tyme to tyme ; and that quhosoever keepes not the Presbyterie or Synod, after grave admonitions, may come vnder further censures.

3. That acuracie be vsed at Visitation of kirks ; and that the Elders, one by one, (the rest being removed), be called in, and examined vpon the Ministers behaviour in his calling and conversation.

4. That course be taken to divyde congregations in parts, and by the help, not only of Elders in ther severall parts, bot of neighbours also, the evills and neglects of persons and families may be found out and remedied.

5. That everie Minister be humbled for his former failings, and make his peace with God, that the more effectuallie he may preach repentance, and may stand in the gape, to turn away the Lords wrath ; runneing betweene the Porch and the Altar, sighing and crying for all the abhominations of the land.

6. Speciall care wold be had, that all Ministers have ther conversation in heaven, mainlie mynding the things of God, and exercising faith for drawing life out of Jesus Christ, the fountaine of life, armeing themselves therby with power against the contagion and wickednes of the world.

7. Care wold be had of godlie conference in Presbyteries, even in tyme of ther refreshment ; and the Moderator is to looke to it, that good mater be furnished thereto.

8. It is also verie necessarie for everie Minister, that wold be fruitfull in the worke of the Lord, to bring home the word of God to his owne heart and conscience by prayer and meditation, both befor and after the publicke ordinance.

9. Vse wold be made of the Roll of the paroch, not only for examination, bot also for consideringe the severall conditions and dispositions of the people, that accordinglie they may be admonished, and prayed for by the Ministers in secreit.

10. It is verie expedient that Ministers have more communion among themselves, for ther mutuall stirreing vp and strengthening of ther hands in the Lords worke, and rectifieing of these quho are nocht incorrigible.

11. That Ministers in all sorts of companie labour to be fruitfull, as the salt of the earth, seasoning them they meitt with ; not only forbearing to drinke healths (Satans snare leading to excesse) bot reproving it in others.

12. All Ministers wold be carefull to cherish the smoaking flaxe of weake beginnings in the wayes of God, and ought couragiouslie to oppose all mockers and revylers of the godlie.

13. As at all tymes, so speciallie now, quhen the Lord is calling vs to ane account, it becomes the Ministers of Christ, with all diligence and faithfulnes, to improve ther ministrie to the vtmost, to be instant in season and out of season ; yea, even frugallie to employ ther tyme in private, in reading of and meditateing on Scripture, that the Word of God may dwell plentifullie in them.

14. That the provydeing the Armies with Ministers be preferred to any congregation ; and these who are appointed to attend the same and are deficient, be, without delay, severelie censured according to the Act of the Generall Assemblie. And that all Ministers, not only in publicke, pray for our Armies, speciallie these that are to enounter with the bloodie enemie within the land, bot also continuallie beare them vp befor the Lord ; that their lyves being reformed, thair hearts and hands may be strengthened, and thair vndertakings at last blessed of God with successe.

15. That besyde all other scandalls, silence, or ambiguous speaking in the Publicke cause, much more detracting and disaffected speaches, be seasonable censured : And to this effect, all honest hearted brethren wold firmelie vnite themselves in the Lord, the younger honouring the elder, and the elder not despiseing the younger.

16. And finallie, both for the corruption of the Ministrie, and remedies therof, we referre the brethren to the Act of the Generall Assemblie at Edinburgh 1596, revived in the late Assemblie at Glasgow 1638, to be found in the printed Act concerning the same.

Mr. Andro Honyman appointed to attend Cambus regiment 15 dayes.
This tyme the Presbyterie were interrupted of meeting by the great troubles of the countrey.

September 17.—The Presbyterie serioufli confiddering the late wonderfull and glorious vi&torie at Philiphauch over the rebells, being desirous to performe publicke thanksgiveing to God for the same, als solemnlie as may be, and being loath to delay the same, have appointed the nixt Lords day to be a preparation for the same, and the Lords day nixt following a day of solemne thanksgiving.

The Presbyterie, confiddering quhat is ther duetie at this tyme toward such as have kythed themselves evill affected to the worke of God in thir kingdomes, in this tyme of our calamitie, and that ther be diverse rankes of them; some quho have opinlie kythed the same, and beene corrupters of others, such are appointed to be very peremptorlie dealt with in rebuking and censuring of them; for others quho have not proceeded so farre, and yet through weaknes and being tempted, have beene readie to curse the worke, and to judge of the cause by the effects, and to curse those quhom the Lord hath employed as speciall instruments therin, yea have beene on the brink of forsakeing the Covenant,—Ministers are exhorted, both in ther doctrine and vtherwayes, to sett foorth the greivounes of that sinne of murmureing, and quhat the woefull conseqences therof may be, and no question will be, if not serioufli repented for.

Because the Provinciall now approaches, it is thought fitt the practise of the Directorie of Worship be delayed till a course be sett downe by them for vuniformitie. In the meanetyme ministers are appointed to be making way for the same, by giving information to ther people, both in ther publicke doctrine and vtherwayes theranent.

October 1.—A supplication presented be Andro Strang in Pittenweeme, desiring that his wife Christane Roch, incarcerated for a witch a long tyme since, and yet not put to tryell, may be enlarged. The answere is referred till the nixt day.

October 8.—The Presbyterie, having seene and confiddered of the dilations against Christane Roch, doe thinke shée should be put to a tryell.

November 6.—*Carmichaell Warloch.*—The dilations against Andro Carmichaell, in the paroch of Dininnow, incarcerate in St. Andros for a warloke, being red and confiddered, advyce was given that he might be enlarged, vpon caution to returne to ward againe quhensoever he fall be called by the Judges.

Januar 21, 1646.—*Support for Craill.*—The brethren are exhorted to deale with ther parochiners to contribute for the help of the towne of Craill now in ther great calamitie.

Februar 25.—This day the Presbyterie received a letter from the Committee of Eftaites, desiring the names of all the killed in this service, together with the number of orphanes and widowes, and ther severall ages and cases, may be sent to them. All are appointed to vse diligence heirin.

May 6.—This day the Presbyterie mett at the new erected Kirk of Camrone, for admitting of Mr. George Nairne minister therat.

May 21.—*Melvill prohibite to give the Communion.*—The Presbyterie, being informed that Mr. Johne Melvill intends to celebrate the sacrament of the Lords Supper the nixt Lords day, doe appoint him to cease therin, till they comon with him anent the escapes he committed the last occasion he had of that kynd.

May 21.—*Abercrombie and St. Minnance.*—The quhilk day Sir James Sandielands of St. Minnance gave in a supplication to the Presbyterie, in name of himselfe and the inhabitants of the towne and lands of St. Minnance, desiring the forsaide towne and lands of St. Minnance to be dismembered from the paroch of Kilconquhar, for severall reas ons; and containeing severall reasons quherfor the Kirk of St. Minnance in that case shoule be the place of meeting for publicke worship, and that the Presbyterie wold concurre for obtaineing heirof. The Presbyterie heartilie approves the same, and promises to vse ther best endeavores for accelerati ng therof; and appoints a letter to be written to my Lord Balcarras, patron of Kilconquhar paroch, to that effect, and the Laird of Kinraig to declare the same to the Session of Kilconquhar, that they may declare their mynd heiranent to the Presbyterie at Kilconquhar the nixt day.

May 27.—Forrett admitted in Kilconquhar.—The Presbyterie mett at Kilconquhar for receaving Mr. David Forrett.

Abercrombie and St. Minnance.—The Seffion of Kilconquhar approven the motion of dismembring the towne and lands of St. Minnance from them, and adjoyning them to Abercrombie, provydeing it prejudice neither their ministers manteinance, the fabrick of ther kirk, nor the patrones right. Mr. Robert Wilkie, being heard in that mater, submitted his part to the Presbyterie. Mr. Robert Traill and Kinraig are appointed to desire the Laird of St. Minnance to put all things on his part to a point, whither anent stipend, manse, gleib, pasturage, or any thing of that kynd.

June 24.—A letter appointed to be written to the Comission for plantation of Kirks, earnestlie recomending the vniteing of Abercrummie and St. Minnance in a paroch, and Sir James Sandielands desired to seure quhat he conditions to that purpofe.

July 15.—Doctrine.—The doctrine, Joh. 6, v. 62, 63, 64, 65, delyvered by Mr. Johne Melvill, being examined, he was censured for impertinent citation of Scripture, five or fix severall tymes, to prove points; for vfeing impertinent epithets, and for indistinct speaking in prayer.

September 2.—Anstruther Malignant.—The quhilk day information being given to the Presbyterie against Johne Anstruther, burges in Anstruther-Easter, of fundrie grosselie impious and malignant speeches vttered by him, the Presbyterie appoints him to be sumond against the nixt day of ther meeting.

Pittenweeme, September 14.—Anstruther.—Compeired Johne Anstruther, and appealed from the Presbyterie to the Provinciall Assemblie. The Presbyterie, notwithstanding of his pretended reasons for his appeale, and his exceptions against any of the witnessses, after mature deliberation, resolves to put the mater to a tryell.

The witnessses, being called and verie solemnlie sworne, did depone as followeth. Mr. James Richardfone did depone as followeth.

1. That in a jearing way, calling ministers, monkes and freirs, he said, “Tak vp your blessed Vnion! by Jesus Christ the cursedeft Vnion that ever we saw.”

2. That he said, ministers had nothing now to speake of, bot to preach

of the troublefome dayes, and ther owne particular, and to get great sti-pends ; “ Quhat vengeance ailes them now, more than the ministirs of old, whose stipends was but litle, foure or fyve hundreth merks ?”

3. He said, speaking of ministirs, “ O yee Scrybes and Pharifies, woe be vnto yow, yee fitt in Moses seate ; yee bring no other thing in the Kirk discipline bot tradition ;” and swore by Christ, they mixed all ther doctrine with tradition.

4. That he swore by Christ, that all the ministirs of Scotland were mensworne and perjured men, because they had preached and sworne to maintaine the religion as it was professed of old, and they had brought in a Directorie dischargeing reading in churches.

5. That he prophanelie asked, quhat he could doe, till the last bell on the Lords day, bot goe and drinke a chopping of wyne.

6. That he not onlie affirmed, bot horriblie swore, by Gods wounds, that all the ministirs were perjured and mensworne men, and said he wold avow and maintaine this before the Presbyterie.

Mr. James Andersone did depone as followeth.

1. That he heard Johne Anstruther speake of the Vnion of thir king-domes in a tanting way, and saying, “ O blessed Vnion !” and that after that he called it “ A cursed Vnion.”

2. That he heard the said Johne, speaking of ministirs stipends, and how frugallie some befor did live vpon litle stipends, and that he said, “ What vengeance ailes them now ?”

3. That he heard him say, “ Yee Scribes and Pharifies fitt in Moses seatte ;” and that he said, “ Take heed that yee mixe not your doctrine with your owne traditions.”

4. That he heard him sware by Jesus Christ, that the ministirs were perjured ; and that he heard him disallow the Directorie.

5. That he heard him swear, by Gods wounds, that the ministirs were perjured and mensworne men.

The Presbyterie, finding the speaches as deponed to, to be so full of impietie and Malignancie, have referred the whole mater to the Comission of the Kirk to be judged of.

Januar 13, 1647.—Restraint of Fornication.—The Presbyterie, feriouslie

confiddering the great abounding of that vyle finne of vncleannes, doe appoint ministers to deale earnestlie with magistrates in burghes, and gentlemen and Sessions in landward, that they will be more carefull to put the A&ts of Parliament to full execution againt such persons.

Januar 27.—Distressed people of Argyle.—This day the Presbyterie received ane letter from the Comission of the Kirk, declareing the deploreable condition of the poore people of Argyle, together with ane A&t of Parliament, recomending them to the charitie of all good Christians within the kingdome. The Presbyterie, apprehending the great outcryng this may produce, to have a collection in these bounds quher ther are so many poore widowes, orphanes, poore fathers and mothers, quho lived by ther children, to quhom help was promised by the Parliament, and are yet negle&ted, doe appoint Mr. George Hamilton to represent the same to the Comission of the Kirk, and crave ther advyce.

Februar 10.—This day the Presbyterie mett at Forgan for admissione of Mr. Alexander Wedderburne, minister ther.

March 10.—Widowes.—Mr. Robert Traill declared, that ther was no possible meanes of getting any course laid downe by the Parliament at this tyme for the help of oure poore widdowes, orphanes, old fathers and mothers quho lived by ther children, and the rest quho are in necessitie by the killing of these quho belonged to them, in England and at home.

March 24.—Salt pannes.—Anent salt pannes. The salters in Craill cannot be gotten so tryed nor restrained as they ought, through the want of a minister. For Pittenweeme pannes they goe not.

Reference to the Provinciall.—Whereas it is regrated by the Presbyterie that the finne of drunkennes does greatly abound in this Shyre, especiallie amongst these of greater fort, it is referred to the Provinciall to lay downe some course how it may be restrained.

Apryle 14.—Parties maried whose humours cannot aggrie.—Mr. Robert Wilkie declareing, that a man and a woman latelie maried in his paroch, whose humours cannot comply together, yea, that the one is feared for bodilie harme of the other, he is appointed to vse all meanes to informe them of the covenant and oath of God, quherby they have bound themselves mutuallie.

May 6.—Abercornes children.—The Presbyterie received a letter from the Comissioners of the Generall Assemblie, desiring vs to take inspection both of my Lord Paisley,¹ his attendants, as also of his education, considering that he is a nobleman come of Popish parents. The Presbyterie recommends the care heirof to the minifters of St. Andros.

May 27.—Presbyterie meeting at Anstruther.—The Presbyterie mett at Anstruther Easter, and concluded the place of ther ordinar meeting to be ther so long as the Plague continues in St. Andros; and resolved to meeete bot once in fourteeene dayes, because of the danger of frequent meeting.

June 24.—Fyres on Midsummer-even referred.—The Presbyterie finding that, notwithstanding of Actes made against the superstitious setting out of fyres on Midsummer even, yet it is still pra&tised by many; the Presbyterie refers the same to the Provinciall Assemblie.

September 15.—Mertins censure for putting violent hands on the Minister.—Compeired befor the Presbyterie Agnes Mertin, quho confessing putting violent hand on the minister and curseing him, they did appoint her to fitt foure Sabbothes in fackecloth, in the publicke place of repentance. And recommends to the magistrates, that they wilbe carefull to inflit such civile punishments as they fall find meitt for so haynous and grosse a fault.

Nov. 3.—Sharp presented to Craill.—The quhilk day, the Presbyterie received a presentation from the Erle of Craufurd, patron of the paroch of Craill, nominateing and presenting Mr. James Sharp, Regent, to be minister at the said kirk, and requyreq the Presbyterie to enter him to his tryalls for that effect. The minifters of St. Andros are appointed to advertise the said Mr. James Sharp to be present the nixt day.

Nov. 17.—Sharp to Craill.—Compeired comiffioners from the paroch of Craill, desiring the Presbyterie to proceid in putting Mr. James Sharp to his tryalls, according to the presentation given in the last day, and requeiſting [them] to accelerate the fame. The said Mr. James being asked, did submitt himſelfe to the Presbyterie, protesting that if he be called to that charge, thair be a tymeous provision of a helper with him therin. The comiffioners from Craill did vndertake to give the said Mr. James ſatisfaction in that desire at the Presbyteries fight. Wherevpon, the Presby-

¹James, Lord Paisley, eldest son of James, second Earl of Abercorn.

terie did appoint him, for the first part of his tryall, the contraversie *De Judice contraveriarum*.

December 1.—Mr. James Sharp gave in his theses to be agitate the nixt day.

December 25.—The discourse delyvered by Mr. James Sharp on the contraversie *De Judice contraveriarum*, and disputs following therupon, censured and approven. He is appointed to adde the nixt day. As also, he hath assignd to him that text, Eph. 3. 15, 16, 17, for ane popular sermon.

December 29.—The doctrine, Joh. 8. v. 1, 2, 3, delyvered by Mr. Robert Weyms, and addition by Mr. James Sharp, censured and approven. For accelerating Mr. James Sharp his tryalls, the Presbyterie are to meitt the morne eight dayes, the 6 of Januar, for hearing his popular sermon.

Januar 13, 1648.—The Presbyterie mett in the New Colledge Schooles, for hearing Mr. James Sharp on the tongues, in caticheticke questions, and chronologie; in all which he was approven: As also, he is fullie approven by all, in all the parts of his tryalls in relation to that charge quhervnto now he is called. Mr. James Makgill is appointed to serve his edit the nixt Lords day, and to return the ansuer therof to the ministers of St. Andros, Mr. John Barron and Mr. Walter Comrie, on Wedinsday; and if nothing be objected at that tyme, the day of his admission is appointed to be this day fyfteen dayes, quher Mr. James Bruce is to preach.

Januar 27.—Sharps Admision.—The Presbyterie mett at Craill for admision of Mr. James Sharp, minister ther, quher Mr. James Bruce did preach.

March 8.—Whereas ther is a superstitious practise of makeing graves vpon the Lords day, quher it may be convenientlie eschewed, the Presbyterie doe appoint, that no graves be made vpon the Lords day, bot in case of urgent necessitie allowed by the Minister and Seffion.

Apryle 26.—Balfour.—Compeired Andro Balfour, disobedient to the Seffion of Largo, quho confessing that he called a woman in Largo theife, lyar, he is appointed either to prove her a theife, vtherwayes to satisfie the ordinance of the Seffion.

M'Allum to be writen for.—The Presbyterie, confiddering how necessar it is that such as have the Irish tongue be trained at schooles and colledges,

for the better planting of kirks in the Highlands, and being certainelie informed of the good hopes of Zacharias M'Allum, sonne to Mr. Archibald M'Allum, that he is a quicke youth capable of learning, and that his father is not able to traine vp his children that way, doe appoint Mr. James Wood to fend for the said Zacharias M'Allum to come heir for that effect, and the Presbyterie are willing to take the burden of his intertainment till the Provinciall Assemblie.

May 17.—No exercise this day, in regard of necessar despatch of publicke businesse.

Letter from the Comissioners of the Generall Assemblie.—The quhilk day the Presbyterie received a letter from the Comissioners of the Generall Assemblie : The tenour quhairof followes:—

REVEREND BRETHREN,

In our letter of the last of March to the Synods, which we suppose all of you have seene and pervsed, we did acquaint you with our desires, given in to the Honorable Estates of Parliament about that tyme, and since after some conferences had, and some papers interchanged, betuixt ther Lordships and vs vpon these desires, whilst we had received no satisfaction thereto, they wer pleased to fall vpon the consideration of the breaches of the Treatie and Covenant, and have resolved to send demands vnto the Parliament of England for reparation therin. One of these demands concerning religion, haveing first voted the same, without our advyse and consent was sought thereto, they did therafter communicate vnto vs, that we might returne our thoughts therupon. In ansuer to which, after some ¹ of ther laying aside ther former way of applications, both to the King and the Parliament of England, and of ther encroacheing vpon the liberties of the Kirk by ther taking resolution in that which concernes religion without vs, and conceiving the demand (incase it sould be refusid) to be intended as a ground of warre, we delayed to give any judgement therof vntill our former desires sould be first satisfied. And withall, intreating that ther Lordships wold be pleased to communicate vnto vs ther resolutions vpon the whole mater, that we might sie that all things were so caried on as wold contribute for secureing of Religion, and preserving the Vnion betuixt the Kingdomes. And therafter did present vnto ther Lordships ane humble and earnest Petition, pressing ane ansuer to our former desires, and containeing ane exoneration of ourselves and of the Kirk of Scotland, if they sould refuse to hearken thervnto. Which ther Lordships having considerred, did, after some dayes, communicate vnto vs a Declaration, containeing the grounds and resolutions of the Parliament vpon the whole mater, together with another paper, which referreth vs to the Declaration for satisfaction of our eight desires, containeing ther ansuer to the other particulars, which we had added to our Petition, and in our ansuer vpon the demand

¹ Blank in the record.

concerning religion, and intimateth to vs that in these things in ther Declaration which concerne religion, they wilbe readie to heare and consider the advyse of the Comission of the Kirk. Bot, after peruseall of the Declaration, and of the other papers, we are farre from finding satisfaction to our first desires, or to the others particulars afterwards given in by vs to ther Lordships, which, as we have alreadie expressed in a part, by a paper of the 25 of this instant ; so we resolve, in a verie short tyme, more fullie to represent to ther Lordships, and concerning the libertie of the Kirk to be verie farre prejudged by the Parliaments proceeding to determine in those things which so neirlie and hightlie concerne religion without the advyse and consent of the Kirk, (many considerable members of Parliament, quho have beeene of constant integritie in the cause of God, in open Parliament dissenting therfrom, and protesting against the same for the liberties of the Kirk,) we found ourselves necessitate to protest for the preservation of the liberties of the Kirk, according to the Word of God, solemnne Covenants, former Lawes, and laudable custome of this Kirk and Kingdome, and that the Act of Parliament be no preparative for the future, and that it salbe yet frie vnto vs, according to the duetie of our place, and as ther salbe cause, to give our judgement in ane ecclesiasticall way, of the materialls of the said Declaration, so farre as religion is therin concerned, als frielie as if ther Lordships had taken no resolution therupon. But we hope in a short time to give you more full and perfyte intimation of all these things, by sending the papers themselves, and therfor shoulde now have beeene silent were it nocht that we are not ignorant of the devyses of malignant and disaffected men, quho doe endeavour nothing more diligentlie than (if it be possible,) by subtile wordes and faire speaches on the one syde, and slanderous and false reports on the other, to gaine some of the ministrie to be subservient to ther designes against the Kirk and the cause of God, knowing that by this meanes especiallie, it was that the libertie of this Kirk was betrayed, and the pure ordinances of Christ corrupted of befor. These things we speake not as if we were effrayed of any of you, our deare brethren ; we hope that after so many teares and temptations, so many prayers and supplications, so great power of the Lords hand in delyvering vs from so great a yocke of bondage, and after so many vowes and promises, everie minister within the land will abhorre to be accessorie to any thing that may promove the purposes of these quho studie to vndermyne the worke of God. Nay, these many Letters to ourselves, and Supplications to the Parliament from many Synods and Presbyteries, as they are vnto vs mater of much refreshing in the midst of many difficulties and straites, quherwith God is pleased to exercise vs, so we take them for evidences of the stedfastnes of these from quhom they have come : And albeit, all have not had the opportunitie to expresse themselves that way, yet we make no question of ther constancie, and that they wilbe readie to witnes ther affection to the cause of God, as they sall sic need. Bot as fellow labourers quho are employed with you in the same worke of the Lord, we give you warneing of the danger, and stirre you vp to be earnest with God in prayer and supplication for your owne stedfastnes, so to give faithfull and tymeous warneing vnto all with quhom yee have to doe against all the snares and tentations of these tymes ; and that yee may now so carie yourselves in all things, that quhen the Lord salbe pleased to bring his servants together in a Generall Assemblie, all of thame may come thither furnished with

the spirit of integrtie, vnitie, and zeale, that so the boasteing of adversaries may be put to silence, and ther hopes blasted, quhen they sall sie vs to be of one mynd, and heare vs speake the same thing, for carieing on the worke of the Gospell, and obviateing everie danger that threatens the same at home and from abroad ; which, as we trust, will be the endeavore of all Presbyteries, so it is the earnest desire and prayer of

Your affectioned brethren the Comissioners of the Generall Assemblie.

Sic subscriptur.

Mr. ROBERT DOWGLAS, *Moderatour.*

Edinburgh, 28 Apryle 1648.

Postscript.—It is evident from the premisses, how great and many difficulties the Kirk of God in this land is brought vnder, by reason of the sinnes and provocations of his people ; as also, how deepe a revolting from the cause of God many are come to, and quhat cause we have to feare the overturneing of all that God has done for vs ; therefor, we have resolved that ther shold be a fast kepted in all the Congregations of this land the last Sabbath of May, for intreating the Lord for mercie and help in this day of our great neid, which we desire you keepe in your severall congregations. We doubt nocht, yee wilbe carefull that such of your number as are of this Comission keepe the next quarter meeting, the last Wednesday of May.

Sic subr.

Mr. ROBERT DOWGLAS, *Moderator.*

Edinburgh 1 May 1648.

Supplication to the Committee of the Shyre.—The Presbyterie, confiddering that to morrow the Committee of Warre of this shyre are to receive orders from the honorable Estates of Parliament, tending to engadgement in warre, doe find themselves obliged in conscience to supplicate the said honorable Committee ; the tenour quhairof followis :

VNTO THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE COMMITTEE OF WARRE OF THE SHYRE OF FYFE, THE HUMBLE
PETITION OF THE PRESBYTERIE OF ST. ANDROS ;
SHEWETH,

THAT quheras the happie successe in promoveing the ends of our National Covenant, and of the Solemne League and Covenant, hathe always flowed from the firm vnion of counsell and endeavours of State and Church joyntlie, we cannot bot conceive great feares of the imminent dangers to the cause of God within this land, that engadgeing in warre is so farre advanced by the high and honorable Court of Parliament, the just desires of the Comissioners of the Generall Assemblie, and of the most parts of the Provinciall Synods within this kingdome, being as yet altogether vnsatisfied ; We therfor make this our addresse vnto your Honours, earnestlie intreating you, in the name of our Lord Jesus Chryst, that, according to your wonted and exemplarie zeale in the cause of God, yee wilbe pleased, in this tyme of neid, to interpose your most earnest supplication to the high and honorable Court of Parliament and ther Committee, that ther be no further progresse toward a warre, till courses be aggred vpon for secureing Religion and

suppressing Malignants, aswell as Sectaries ; which we humble conceive is not as yet done. Your Honours have reason with vs to insist in pressing the peaceable way of treating with the Parliament of England, befor violent wayes be attempted, the event quherof is so vncertaine ; first, because the honorable Court of Parliament of this kingdome, in there late Declaration, have declared ther resolution not to engadge in warre till the lawfulnes and necessitie therof be cleared, so that all well affected (among them we constantlie are,) be satisfied in ther consciences. As also, because the Houses of Parliament in England are so farre advanced toward satisfactorie answers to ther demands, as appeares by ther late votes.

Mr. Robert Blair, Mr. James Bruce, and Sir James Lumis dell, appointed to present the same.

May 24.—Supplication of the shyre to be approven and insert in Session booke.
The Presbyterie, being certainelie informed of the paines taken be some in procureing subsciptions to a protestation against the humble Supplication of the Comittee of Warre, by Presbyteries and Burghes of this shyre, and the Vniversitic of St. Andros, doe appoint brethren to be carefull to acquaint ther people of the evills heirof ; as also, that they crave the consent and approbation of the severall Sessions to the humble Petition of this Presbyterie to the honorable Comittee of Warre in this shyre, and that it may be registrate in the severall Session booke of this Presbyterie, and report ther diligence heirin.

May 31.—Letter to the Parliament.—The Presbyterie doe appoint ther reverend and welbeloved brethren, Mr. David Forrett and Mr. Robert Bennett, to present to the honorable Estates of Parliament, the Ansuer condiscended vpon by vs to ther Letter, of the date Edinburgh May 11 1648 ; the tenour of which Ansuer follows :

OUR VERIE NOBLE AND MOST HONORABLE LORDS,

If it had bene within the reach of our power conucionable to have followed the direction of your Letter, that had beene, we confesse, the only desireable ansuer to the same ; but seeing the sinnes of the land hath procured this mist vpon publicke counsells, that we cannot sie how to act as your Lordships direct, least therfor our silence sould be misinterpreted, we found ourselves oblidged in all humilitie, in the feare of the Lord, to returne this Ansuer to your Lordships.

Who these are that hate his Majesties person, and being lovers of Sectaries within this land, doe cast aspersions or raise calumnies vpon your Lordships proceedings, we profess vnfainedlie we know not, and if we knew it, wold be readie in our way to censure them ; bot we acknowledge ther be many, (among quhom we profess our selves,) quho heartilie approve

Monarchicall governement in his Majesties person and posterite, and hating Sectaries with a perfect hatred, are loadened with reproaches and calumnies be Malignants and thier favourers, for ther constancie and zeale in the cause of God, and yet are nocht satisfied in your Lordships wayes, as it is brieflie expressed in the joyst Petition of this Shyre, and largelie sett foorth in the Representation of the Commissioners of the Generall Assemblie. Hardlie could any thing on earth so rejoice our hearts, as the assurance that your Lordships preferred the preservation of Religion to all earthlie things, and were promoveing all the ends of the Covenant, and complying with the desires of the Comissioners of the Generall Assemblie, as your Lordships professe, which we take as a testimonie from your Lordships justifieing ther desires as lawfull and necessarie ; and it salbe our constant prayers to God, that maters may be so caried on by your Lordships to the great joy of all the godlie in the land, and disappointment of Malignants, whose insolencies are growen to a great hight by the too great appearance of the contrarie. As for that part of your Lordships Letter, quherin, with the clearing of your owne proceedings, as no wayes prejudicall to the liberties of the Kirk, heavic imputations are laid vpon others, we both wish your Lordships way had given reall evidences how farre yee were from taking ane antecedent judgment in maters of religion ; and withall, we professe our detestation of that Episcopall disease of authoritative meddleeing with civile affairs. Yet this we acknowledge, that, according to the latitude of the Word of God, (which is our theame,) we are allowed to treate, in ane ecclesiasticall way, of greatest and smallest affaires, from the Kings throne that shold be established in righteousnes, to the merchands ballance that shold be vsed in faithfulness. We know no church judicatorie that makes the Kings negative voyce in Parliament ther theame to dispute ; but this we must hold, that all Church judicatories shold take great care that neither Princes nor Parliaments, whether affirmative or negative voyce, prove prejudicall to Religion, the cause of God, and solemne Covenants. Your Lordships citeing that Act of Parliament in the yeer 1584, calls to our mynd the woefull posture of affaires at that tyme, both in State and Church, by a dominireing faction that oppressed the Judicatories of the Kirk so farre that ther Registers were detained from them, and some parts therof torne out, till the Lord, in great mercie to his covenanted people, quicklie dispelled that cloud : And thogh it be certaine that the Act cited was intended at the by, for reestablishing of Prelacie, then ruined by the Nationall Covenant, thrie yeirs befor sworne and subscryved, yet excluding the Prelates from being one of the thrie Estates (as now we hope they are eternallie excluded), we heartilie close with the Act, and say further, That the impugning, whither of Princes, or Parliaments, or Kirks just authoritie, is a grosse and fearfull breach of our solemne Covenants, and deserves the wrath of God, and damnation, in a high degrie. But withall we vnderstand that ther is a vaste difference betweene power or authoritie, and the proceedings and exercise therof. The one we are sworne not only to impugne, bot to mantaine ; the other we may and ought, by the judgment of discretion, to examine, and if we find them opposite to the word of God, and prejudicall to his cause, ought to obey God rather then men vpon quhatever perrill. We are remitted for full satisfaction by your Lordships to the Declaration sent to vs, which we have diligentlie red, and seriouslie pondered, and we cannot

find therby a course laid downe for the preservation and the propagation of Religion, and suppressing of Malignants ; for we sie not so much as propositions to be presented, let be securitie mantained from his Majestie, till he be in the frie exercise of his royll power, and so als frie to refuse as to grant, which how dangerous it is to religion his Majesties mynd and professed purpose, even in this his low condition, concerning Prelacie and Liturgie being sufficientlie knownen, we leave it to your Lordships to considerre ; how dangerous also it is, that Malignants, arising in armes, and having bot the cunning to conceale ther intention, sall no wayes be opposed, but rather cherished and strengthened, all quho sufficientlie remembers ther Covenant may evidentlie sie. Notwithstanding all this, that the cause of Engadgement remains the same, (which is your Honours expression,) we professe, in all humble respect to your Lordships, as in the sight of the Searcher of Hearts, we cannot sie, vnles we resolve together to forsake our reason, conscience, and Covenant. The case thus standing, we must of necessitie, with all humilitie and fervencie, intreat your most honourable Lordships not to exact or expect from vs, that we sall, by preaching, prayer, or any other meanes, stirre vp the people to this expedition. The most high and only wise God, befor quhom all nations are as the dust of the ballance, enspyre the hearts of our confederate neighbours to yield to that which is right in his sight, and perswade your Lordships to accept the same : Or if, in his just displeasure against the sinnes of both lands, ther be a necessitie of engadging in a woefull warre, grant that the throne of Christ be established in these lands, and our Kings throne, as a part of the footestoole therof, and that all the enemies of both be effectuallie and spedilie suppressed. So pray

Your Lordships Servants, obedient in Christ, the Presbyterie of St.
Andros, by our Moderator, at our command,

Sic sub^r. SAMUEL RUTHERFURD, Moderator.

St. Andros, May 24, 1648.

June 14.—Act of the Commissioners of the Generall Assembly.—The quhilke day the Presbyterie received ane A&t of the Commissioners of the Generall Assembly, seriouſlie recomending to Presbyteries to take ſpeciall notice and tryell of everie brothers cariage in the publicke buffines at this tyme, that it may be found, quho doe not declare themſelves againſt the preſent Engadgement, nor joyne with the brethren in their common refolutions againſt it, nor give publicke information to the people of the vnlawfulnes therof, they may be referred to the next Generall Assembly. And if any have declared themſelves for it, that they be preſentlie censured. The whole brethren preſent declared, That they had preached againſt the fame, and were conuinced in their conſcience, both of the vneceſſarines and vnlawfulnes of the fame at this tyme. Only Mr. John Barron declared, that as yet he has neither preached for it nor againſt it, and that he is not as

yet convinced of the vnlawfulnes therof : he desires a tyme to be resolved ere he give a final answser.—Granted.

June 21.—Against the Band of the late Parliament.—The Presbyterie having seene and confiddered the Band or A&t of the late Parliament, appointed by the Committee of Estates to be subscryved by all the subiects of this kingdome, and finding the same much prejudicall to the settling and establisheing of Religion in these kingdomes, and contrar to the Solemne League and Covenant, doe appoint brethren in ther places and callings to be carefull to informe the people committed vnto them, that they be not ensnared by any specious pretences to subscryve the same.

July 5.—Nevay, Regent.—The Presbyterie being informed that Mr. David Nevay, Regent in St. Leonards Colledge, hath vented diverse things contrar to the establisheing order of this Kirk, as, namelie: 1. That the Church constitutions have no stregth, and are not obligatorie, vntill they be confirmed by the civill magistrate. 2. That Eraftians deserve not to be called Sectaries. He is appointed to be summond to compeir befor the Presbyterie this day 15 dayes.

Reference to the Generall Assemblie.—The Presbyterie does recomend to ther Comissioners, that they recomend to the Generall Assemblie the appointing the Covenant to be subscryved throughout the kingdome.

July 11.—Patons admision.—The Presbyterie mett at Kemback for admision of Mr. David Paton, minister ther.

August 2.—M'Allum.—The Presbyterie doe appoint Mr. James Wood and Mr. Andro Honyman to aggrie with some in St. Andros for Zacharias M'Allum (quhom they appointed to be writen for) his buird, till the Provinciall Assemblie.

October 11.—Ayton.—Compeired Mr. William Ayton, quho being accused, if ever he said, that he repented his subscryving the Solemne League and Covenant, and that he called it a Band, and said, If he had it he shold tramp it vnder his feete ; confesses that he said, he repented his subscription therof; bot denied the rest. The Presbyterie being informed that Mr. Williame Tulliedaffe and Mr. Gilbert Murray were present the tyme quhen he spake these things, and being present, were desired if they wold declare quhat they knew therin presentlie ; quho consenting, and he

alleging nothing against them, being sworne to declare the truth, did deponed as follows.

Mr. William Tulliedaffe deponed, that Mr. William Ayton being reasoning with some students, (of quhom he was one,) they demanded of him, If he had subscryved the band appointit to be subscryved by the late Parliament? He answered, he never subscryved any band bot ane, quhen he was at St. Leonards Colledge, and he repented his subscription therof, and if he had that band he wold ryve it. It being replied, that nothing of publicke concernment was subscryved at that tyme in the Colledge bot the Solemne League and Covenant. He answered, That same was it; and repeited the former wordes.

Mr. Gilbert Murray deponed, he heard him speake malignantlie against the Solemne League and Covenant; bot did not remember the particular expressions he vied, only that he called the Solemne League and Covenant a Band, and that he said he repented his subscryveing therof.

November 1.—Ayton.—The Presbyterie confiddering seriouslie quhat Mr. Ayton hath confessed, and quhat is clearlie proven against him, doe judge it to be grosse malignancie, and a breach of Covenant; bot he not being sensible of the sinfulnes and guiltines therof, the Presbyterie reffers his censure, and appoints Mrs. Samuell Rutherford, James Wood, and Andro Honyman, to conferre with him heiranent.

December 7.—Newton.—Compeired befor the Presbyterie Sir Johne Leslie of Newton, one of the Senators of the Colledge of Justice, quho denied that he did contribute for the Colledge of Justice ther Regiment in the late Engadgement vnder the conduit of Duke Hamilton. For his sonnes, quho wer commanders in that service, he alledged, that one of them being vpon service formerlie, and the other come to yeirs of discretion, they wold not be ruled by him. Confessed that he adhered to a Protestation at Couper against ane Supplication aggrieved vpon by the Committee of Warre to the Parliament, for which he professed greife. All which things confiddered, and his case applied to the A&t of the Comissioners of the Generall Assemblie, and ther explanation, the Presbyterie did debarre him from renewing the Solemne League and Covenant, receaving the sacrament of the Lords Supper, or having any power or voyce in any of the Judicatories of the Kirk till the nixt Generall Assemblie.

December 13.—The draught of the Declaration appointed to be subscryved by these quho subscryved the Protestation, was red and approven. The tenour quherof follows.

Copie of the Declaration against the Protestation.—Wee vndersubscryvers being now convinced in our consciences of the vnlawfulnes and sinfulnes of the late Engadgement against the kingdome of England, vnder the conduct of Duke Hamilton, as a most foule and haynous breach and violation of our Solemne League and Covenant, according to the many and frequent testimonies given against the same, both by declarations of the Church, and the faithfull preaching of the ministers of Christ, whose wordes the Lord hes confirmed by the just and vnparralleld stroke of his judgement vpon it ; and being sensible how great a guiltines we have drawn vpon ourselves, in being accessorie to the promoveing and advancement of the said Engadgement by joyneing in and subscryveing a Protestation made at Couper against a most humble Supplication of the Comittee of Warre, all the Presbyteries, the most part of the Burrowes of this shyre, and the Universitie of St. Andros, given in to the Parliament, humblie desireing that no engadgement in warre sould be vndertaken, vntil all amicable and peaceable wayes of aggriement with England sould be essayed, securitie had for religion, and other just desires of the Church satisfied ;—Doe heirby sincerelie declare our deepe sense and heartie sorrow for our said guiltines, vtterlie disallowing, renounceing and detesting the said Protestation, and our subscription therof ; and doe promise, by the grace of God, that for all tyme comeing we shall adhere more closelie and constantlie to our Covenant, and keepe ourselves from all courses prejudicall to the ends therof ; and finallie, more consonionable to hearken to the faithfull warnings of the fervants of God from his word. In witnes quherof, we have subscryved these presents with our hands.¹

December 19.—Malignant Women.—The Presbyterie confiddering how

¹ A great number of all ranks were at this time brought before the Presbytery for their accession by word or deed to the “Unlawful Engagement,” and received sentence according to their degrees of guilt. Those who were debarred from the Communion, &c. were afterwards received into the bosom of the Church, upon declaring their repentance in the presence of the Congregation, and subscribing this Declaration.

scandalous it shoulde be to admitt women to sweare the Solemne League and Covenant, or to the Communion, quho are knownen to be malignantlie affected, for removeing quherof it is ordained that ministres in ther severall congregations try anent such women. And quher the scandall is publicke, and prooфе therof cleare, such women, before they be admitted to the Covenant or Communion, are appointed to give declaration of ther repentance for that sinne in publicke befor the congregation. And quher the scandall is not so publicke, nor particulars so clearlie knownen, Ministres are appointed to deale with such in private, to bring them to a sene of that sinne, and accordinglie to accept or debarre them from the Covenant and Communion.

Januar 31, 1649.—Cambo.—The quhilk day, Sir Patrik Myrton of Cambo did present a petition subscryved by him, declareing sorrow and greife for his accession to the late vnlawfull Engadgement, craveing God pardon for his sinne heirin, promiseing by the Lords assistance to walke more circumspe&lie and watchfullie in all tyme comeing, earnestlie desiring vpon his repentance to be admitted to the Covenant and Communion: Which things seriouſlie confiddered, the Presbyterie did appoint him to make publicke declaration of his repentance befor the congregation, and to subscryve the Declaration against the Protestation, and therafter to be admitted to the Covenant, and to receive the sacrament of the Lords Supper.

Rankeilor.—Thomas Rankielor in St. Andros called, compeired not. These things being found to be clearlie proven befor the Seſſion of St. Andros againſt him: That he faid, that it was better for vs quhen we lived under Prelacie than now, for then we payed but one taxation in the yeir, but now we pay monthlie; That the King desired but thrie Bishops in England, quhilk was very reaſonable; That he wold not goe out to fight for ministres, nor no other quho wold bidde him; and that he faid, The subſcryeing of the Covenant brought ane vengeance vpon the land. The Presbyterie did judge these things to be groſſ malignancie, and doe debarre him from takeing the Covenant, or receiving the sacrament of the Lords Supper, till he be made ſenſible of his giltines; and being made ſenſible therof, is appointed to make declaration of his repentance in the publicke place therof in ſackecloth.

March 28.—Stipends and number of Communicants.—The Presbyterie having vsed diligence for getting the stipends of the severall ministers in ther bounds, and the number of communicants, the particulars therin not being as yet exa&tlie done by everie one, the rest is referred till after the Provinciall Assemblie.

Apryle 25.—The quhilke day the Presbyterie did admitt my Lord Balcarras to the renewing of the Solemne League and Covenant, quho did solemnelie sweare and subscryve the same befor them.

May 2.—[Mr. Thomas Wood, minister at Ferrie Partoncraig, dimits his charge on account of bad health.]

June 28.—Highland Boyes.—The Presbyterie doe appoint everie brother to delyver to Mr. James Wood the fourtie shillings appointed to be paid for intertwaineing Highland boyes at schooles.

August 1.—Abercromby.—The quhilke day, ther was represented to the Presbyterie grosse misfeariages committed by my Lord Abercrombie, in striking ane elder and the kirk bedell in that paroch, for warneing his Ladie to compeir befor the Seffion of Falkland; quhilke confiddered, the Presbyterie doe appoint him to be summond to compeir befor the Presbyterie this day fyftein dayes, for these and his scandalous intemperance, and other scandalous misfeariages. And, in the mean tyme, that the Seffion of Abercromby may justlie delay to vfe any further sumonds against my Ladie, violence being offered and done to the messinger, till some other course be advyfed vpon for sumonding her.

August 8.—Civile Courts for Ecclesiastickie maters.—The Presbyterie does seriouſlie recomend to ministers and seffions that they be carefull to establish the civill Courts for ecclesiastickie maters in ther severall paroches, and carefullnes in trying ther diligence in these things recomended to them.

August 15.—Act for putting children to Schooles.—The Presbyterie being informed that diverse parents, even in these places quher schooles are fettled, doe not put ther children to schooles, doe appoint ministers, in vifiteing families, to take notice quhat children are in everie familie fitt to be put to schoole, and to vrge the parents to it, and incace it be not done, that they complain of ther negle&t heirin to the seffion; and if seffions omitt to vrge them to it, that it be recomended to the Presbyterie.

September 12.—Abercrombie.—After the Presbyterie had sent brethren to conferre with my Lord Abercrombie, anent his beatcing the Elder of that Seffion, and the kirk beddell in executeing his office, and anent his frequent excesse in drunkennes, he compeired himselfe, and did confess frequent grosse intemperance, and professed willingnes to submitt himselfe to the Presbyterie for his scandall therin. As for the stikeing of the Elder and Kirk beddell, he acknowledges he did beate them, bot not in relation to execution of Kirk laues; and promised to be carefull to forbear the lyke in all tyme comeing. As also, he did promise and vndertake to the Presbyterie, that his Ladie fall goe to the Seffion of Falkland, and ther clear herselfe of that scandall alledged against her, and to produce a testimonie therof from the minister of Falkland, befor the ensewing Provinciall Assemblie. The Presbyterie did lykewayes admonish him for his scandalous absenting himselfe from Gods worship in his owne congregation, and for intertwaineing ill and scandalous companie; both quhilk he promised to amend. He did lykewayes present a subscryved paper, declareing that he had now a great sence of the sinfulnes of the late vnlawfull Engadgement, and of his sinfullnes in acceffion thervnto, humblie desiring, seeing he is shortlie to goe aff the kingdome, he may be admitted to declare himselfe publicklie in these things, and so be reconciled with the Kirk of God and his people in this land. All which things seriouslie confiddered, the Presbyterie, to convince him that it is not his shame befor the world they are seeking, bot his good, that he may turn from the evill of his wayes and doings to the Lord, doe appoint him to be wifelie and gravelie admonished, on Sonday come eight dayes, in his owne paroch kirk, for all these forementioned finnes, and mainlie for his activitie in the late sinfull Engadgement; and he, professing his grieve and sorrow for all these, and promiseing to behave himselfe better in all tyme comeing, is to be received and appointed to subscryve the Declaration of the Generall Assemblie.

December 6.—St. Andros Visitation.—The quhilk day the Presbyterie conveened for visitation of the kirk of St. Andros, quher Mr. Walter Comrie did preach.

Intimation was publicklie made to the congregation of this Visitation.

The ministters being removed, the elders were fworne to declare quhat they knew of ther ministters as falbe enqyred ; and thereafter removed and called in severallie and examined anent the foundnes, clearnesse and power of ther doctrine, there catechizing, vifiteing of families, care to have Gods worship fett vp in families, anent a care to have finne punished, anent the vprightnes of ther converstation : In all which they did fullie approve them.

The elders removed, and the ministters called and examined severallie, did everie one of them approve ther collegues as faithfull and painfull in ther callings ; as also, did approve the elders in holding hand to discipline, particularlie that the present Magistrates gave good affistance for censuring scandalous persons : Only the elders are exhorted to be diligent in obseruing, and faithfull in dilateing, common fwearers, and such as live intemperateli, and Sabbath breakers.

The Presbyterie, in visting the condition of the paroch of St. Andros, towne and landward, both pastors and people, having received ample testfimonie of the fidelitie and painfulnes of Mr. Andro Honyman, and confiddering that his present manteinance is incompetent, whither in regard of the eminencie of the charge, or living in such a deare place, and that he can nocht well be removed hence, and that it is incumbent to them to sie how this may be remeided in ane amicable way, do nominate and appoint Mrs. George Hamilton, Colin Adams, David Forrett, Robert Bennett, the Lairds of Moncreiff and Erlshall, or any thrie of them, to conveene at St. Andros vpon the 18 of this instant, with the Magistrates, or such others as falbe nominate by the Counsell of the said citie for agreeing vpon ane legall course how this may be constantlie remeided.

Having also seene and confiddered that Mr. Robert Blair hath not ane mans, according to the A&ts of Parliament, and that ther be some tacks of teynds long since given out by his predeceffors, quherby he is prejudged in his manteinance, do appoint them to confidder both these particulars.

As also, ther being severall parts in the landward paroch of St. Andros, lying at a great distance from the kirk therof, by reasoun quherof they feldome come to the hearing of the Word, and when they come cannot have a commodious place in the kirk for hearing the Word, the number

of the townes people being so great ; which places lye neir other kirks, where they may be served more commodiouslie for a tyme, till some constant course be agreed vpon ; such as Bonytoun and Cartefuirdmylne to Dininow ; Nydie, Newtoun of Nydie, Clatta and Boonefield, to Kembak ; —doe appoint them to confidder heirof, and report ther diligence in all these things the nixt day.

Januar 2.—Abercrombie.—The Presbyterie doe ordaine the ministres of St. Andros to delay the baptizeing of my Lord Abercrombies chyld till he cleare that scandall raised by him of his Ladie, according to the appointment of the Provinciall Assemblie.¹

March 27.—Report of perambulation of the west part of St. Andros paroch. The quhilk day these appointed to perambulate the west part of the landward paroch of St. Andros, did report ther diligence as followes :—

March 20, 1650.—The quhilk day, Mrs. Patrik Skowgall and Alexander Wedderburne, John Martyne of Lathones, and James Bynning of Dininow, ruling elders, together with Mr. Robert Blair, minister of St. Andros, mett at Kinkepill, and from thence did perambulate the west parts of the paroch of St. Andros ; some places whereof they find above thrie myles distant from St. Andros, and verie evill way, especiallie in winter, and others two myles distant from the said kirk, of verie foul way also. As also, they find that the number of persons to be tane charge of will be toward thrie hundred ; and withall find no adjacent kirk to which most part of them can be convenientlie annexed. And therfor the perambulators foirsaid, having ane eye to Gods glorie, the advancement of the Gofpell, and the good of the soules of these people, declare this to be their humble opinion : That a kirk be erected in the most convenient part betweene Kinkepill and Over Strakinnesse, where all these people of Kinkepill, Strakinnesse Over and Nether, Nydie, Newtoun of Nydie, Clatto,

¹ April 30, 1650.—The quhilk day, my Lord Abercrombie had a child baptized, called James, befor honest witnesses. The quhilk bairne (in my Lord his absence) was presented be the Laird of Kilbrackmond, quho oblidged and band himself, befor the minister and two elders, to answer and satisfie for any thing that heirafter should be objected against the said Lord his ladie, anent that scandall at Falkland.—*Kirk Sess. Rec. of Abercrombie.* Lady Abercromby was accused by the kirk-session of adultery with Sir Mungo Murray.

and Boonefield, may resort convenientlie, most part being about halfe a myle distant from that place, and the furthest about three quarters of a myle.

The Presbyterie, having heard and serioufly confiddered the above written report, did appoint severall brethren to confidder the bounds of the kirk of St. Andros, and compare it with the number of parochiners, and sie, whither these people may be well accommodate there for attending publicke divyne ordinances, and report ther diligence afternoone.

Postmeridiem eodem die.—These appointed to confidder the kirk of St. Andros, whither all the parochiners, towne and landward, can be well accomodate for hearing the Word, receiving of sacraments, declared, That they find the kirk so disposed to the people of the towne and the Universitie, that they find no convenient place for these people in the landward for keeping publicke performances of worship therin, bot least of all these formerlie nominate. The which report, together with the former, seriuoslie confiddered, the Presbyterie finds it necessar, for the reas ons above written, that there be a paroch kirk erected according to the foirmentioned report, and referres and recomends the same to the Provinciall Assembly, that they may recomend and referre the same to the Generall Assembly for advancing so pious and necessar a worke.

March 27.—Diligence for changing Monday and Saturdays mercats.—The Presbyterie doe appoint the severall brethren in burghes, to deale with such as have not changed ther Mondayes and Satterdayes mercats to other dayes of the weeke, that they may doe the same *primo quoque tempore*.

Reference concerning purgeing of Seffions.—The Presbyterie confiddering how necessar a thing it is, tending much to the vindication of the governement of Christs Kirk, and the advancement of the Gospell, that purgeing Seffions of ignorant and profane members be universall through the kingdome, and that a tyme be limited heирto, and Seffions oblieft to report ther diligence to Presbyteries, etc., with peremptor certifications, doe referre the same to the Provinciall Assembly, to be by them referred and recommended to the nixt General Assembly.

April 24.—Wilsons admiffion at Camrone.—The Presbyterie met at

Camrone, where Mr. Robert Blair did preach, Jer. 3, v. 14, and Mr. Alexander Wilson admitted minister ther.

May 1.—Voluntar contribution for Stonehaven appointed.—The Presbyterie having confiddered the Petition presented the former day in name of the towne of Stonehaven, shewing the great prejudice that hath and may come to ships and barkes goeing alongs to, or comeing from the North fishing, through want of ane safe harbour ther, and ther owne inhabilitie for repareing and building therof, being twyse burnt by the mercileffe, bloodie, excommunicate rebell, James Grahame; and therfor earnestlie supplicateing for some charitable supplie to the effect foirsaid, which is also affisted by ane A&t of Parliament, and ane A&t of recomendation from the Provinciall of Angus and Mernes, together with a letter of recomendation from the Presbyterie of Mernes. The Presbyterie, confiddering the reaonablenes of the desire, doe appoint the brethren to intimate a voluntar contribution in ther severall congregations, (and especiaillie recommends the same to burghes in the coastfyde quho are most interest therin,) to collect and bring in ther contributions, to be delivered to William Gregorie appointed collector by them for that effect.

New Psalms.—The Presbyterie received a letter with 22 copies of the late paraphrase of the Psalms of David in meeter, which comeing late, is referred to the nixt day.¹

May 8.—New Psalms to be intimate.—The Presbyterie having received copies of the new paraphrase of the Psalms of David in meeter, and confiddered the same, doe appoint the severall brethren to make intimation of the practiseing therof in congregations and families, to beginne the first Lords day of June in this Presbyterie.

May 15.—Thanksgiving for the victorie against Grahame.—The Presbyterie received a letter from the Comissioners of the Generall Assemblie, shewing, that Thuresday the 23 of this instant is appointed for a day of solemne thanksgiving to God for the late glorious and feasnable victorie against excommunicate, bloodie, perfidious James Grahame and his associates.

¹ This was the version of the Psalms by Francis Rous, revised by a Committee of the General Assembly, which was then authorized, and still continues to be used in the Scottish Church.

May 29.—Lyall suspended from eldership.—Compeired William Lyall, quho confeft flighting the ordinance of the Presbyterie, and being found ignorant and stubborne, the Presbyterie did suspend him from the office of eldership till he give proof of better carriage; and appoints him to come to the Seffion and heir the sentence of the Presbyterie intimate ther, vtherwayes appoints it to be intimate out of pulpitt.

June 5.—Promiscuous Danceing.—All quho have not, are appointed to intimate the Act of the Generall Assemblie discharging promiscuous danceing.

June 12.—Anstruther excommunicate.—The Presbyterie having serioufli confiddered the atrocitie of Jhone Anstruther his finneing, quho, being entrusted by diverse honest men with ane shipp and merchant goods, went away vnder Kirk censures, and did not offer satiffaction according to order; and being away, did joyne with excommunicate accursed Grahame, and turned pirate vnder him, called in diverse seafareing men on ther lawfull tradeing, and examined them, requyred vnlawfull oathes of some, hath taken severall shippes, spoyled many honest men of ther goods, hath mocked God and his people latelie in professing publicke repentance for grosse malignacie proven against him; doe therfor appoint him to be summarlie excommunicate the nixt Lords day by the minister of Anstruther Easter.

June 19.—Report of perambulations of Couper and St. Andros.—Followes the Report of these appointed for perambulation of severall bounds in the Presbyteries of St. Andros and Couper.

June 18, 1650.—The whilk day mett, according to the appointment of the Presbyteries of St. Andros and Couper, in obedience to the appointment of the Synod, the brethren vnder writen, to witt, Mr. James Wedderburne, Mr. James M'Gill, Mr. Alexander Wedderburne, and Mr. George Thomefon, and did perambulate the easter parts of the paroch of Serris, the paroch of Kembak, Darfie, and Logie, and the west part of the paroch of Leuchars, and did find as followes, viz. That Over and Nether Magus, in the paroch of Serris, extending the number of . . . comunicants, are distant from the kirk of Serris two myles and ane halfe, having ane ill water twyse to crosse, and but ane myle from the kirk of Kembak, of farre more commodious way, the number of the comunicants of Serris being . . .

and the number of the comunicants of Kembak being but eight score. As also, having viewed the west parts of the paroch of Leuchars, viz. Easter and Wester Drone, Burntoun, Meadowburn, Pitcullo, Kittetie, Arditt, Haystoun, Cuplahills, Lucklay, do find that Easter Drone is distant from the kirk of Leuchars two myles of verie foule way, and that it is but a myle distant from the kirk of Dairfie: also Wester Drone is distant from the kirk of Leuchars two myles and ane half of foule way, and within ane quarter of ane myle to the kirk of Dairfie, and that the number of comunicants in Drone Easter and Wester are about thriescore: also, that Pitcullo, Meedowburn and Burntoun, having in them about thritie comunicants, are two myles of verie foule way from the kirk of Leuchars, and about a myle either to Dairfie or Logie of good way; the number of the communicants of Dairfie being threttine score, and the number of comunicants in Logie about thrie hundreth: also, that Arditt, Haystoun, Kittetie, Cuplahills, and Luckley, are two myles distant from the kirk of Leuchars, and within halfe a myle of the kirk of Logie; the number of communicants in these places being above fourscore; the number of the communicants of the paroch of Leuchars being about eleven hundreth. The humble opinion of the perambulators is, that Over and Nether Magus be disjoyned from the paroch of Serris, and annexed to the paroch of Kembak; and that Drone, Easter and Wester, shoulde be disjoyned from the paroch of Leuchars, and annexed to the paroch of Dairfie; that Pitcullo, Meadowburn, and Burntoun be disjoyned from the paroch of Leuchars, and annexed to the paroch of Dairfie or Logie, as the Comifion, after hearing of the heritours and respetive parochiners, shall find most convenient; that Kittetie, Arditt, Luckley, Cuplahills, Haystoun, shoulde be disjoyned from the paroch of Leuchars, and adjoyned to the paroch of Logie. In testimonie quherof thir presents are subferyved with our hands, day foirsaid, at Dron. *Sic sub.* Mr. James Wedderburne, Mr. George Thomesone, Mr. James Makgill, Mr. Alexander Wedderburne.

June 26.—Anstruther.—The Presbyterie doe appoint the severall brethren to intimate the excommunication of Johne Anstruther.

Holland.—As also, the severall brethren are appointed, by publicke intimation, to warne ther people of a vagabond ignorant fellowe, called Johne

Holland, quho professes to give phyficke, and hath deceived diverse, that they beware of employing him, and that name in theſe bounds fall refett him.¹

July 10.—Graemsay and Couper.—John Graemsay and Andro Couper confeſt that being taken by Johne Anſtruther, they did ſweare ane oath to him; quho, being verie ignorant, are referred to be dealt with by ther ministers, and the Presbyterie againe to confidder them with others quho fall be found in that caſe.

July 17.—Moneyes delyvered for levying ane Regiment of Horſe to the preſent Service.—The Presbyterie conveened occaſionallie for delyvering ther fevall proportions toward the levying a regiment of horſe for the preſent ſervice, as followes; Mr. James Bruce 100 merks, Mr. Robert Bennett 100 £ib., Mr. Colin Adams 100 merks, Mr. David Guthrie 100 merks, Mr. George Hamilton 100 £ib., Mr. Henrie Rymer 100 £ib., Mr. Robert Wilkie 100 merks, Mr. Robert Weyms 100 merks, Mr. James M'Gill 100 £ib., Mr. Patrik Skowgall 100 £ib., Mr. Walter Comrie 100 merks, Mr. Alexander Wedderburne 100 £ib.

July 31.—Report of diſcharge of Moneyes.—Mr. Archibald Porteous pro-duced Mr. James Hamilton his diſcharge of eighteen hundreth merks received by him for the levie of ane regiment of horſe to the preſent ſer-vice, given by the ministers of this Presbyterie to that effe&t. As alſo, the brethren following produced his diſcharge of the proportions following; Mr. Robert Blair 200 merks, Mr. David Forrett 200 merks, Mr. James Sharp 200 merks, Mr. Andro Honyman 100 merks, Mr. Johne Heart 100 merks.

Exhortation to Brethren.—The Presbyterie, confiddering the great danger to Religion, Covenant, King, and Kingdome at this tyme, by the invasion of the Sectaries, exhorted the fevall brethren, not only to be earneſt in prayer to God themſelves, both in publicke and private, bot that in tounes the people be conveened everie day to publicke and ſolemne prayer, quhen ministers are at home and in health; and that landward a day be ſett apart for publicke ſolemne prayer in the Congregation, befyde ther ordinar

¹ Holland was an English mountebank living at Anſtruther, whose “deceit being discovered, the people were prohibite to resort to him.”

dayes ; and that people be exhorted to private humiliations in families, and secreit also by themselves.

Prayer against the Sectaries.—The brethren spent the rest of this day, both befor and afternoone, in solemne prayer to God, for a blessing to the vndertakings of this Kirk and Kingdome against the unwarrantable invasion of the present enemie, quho hath perfidiouslie forsaken the Covenant and oath of God.

August 7.—Black and Wyde.—Mr. Colin Adams to conferre with William Black and Andro Wyde, for informeing them of the finne in subfervyng that oath in Orknay called THE ERLE OF MORTONS OATH.¹

Smith.—Compeired, Isbell Smith in Kyrrinnie paroch, quho confest shee vsed charmeing wordes, and being altogether ignorant, is discharged to vse those wordes, and appointed to make publicke acknowledgement of that finne befor the Congregation thrie dayes. As also, Margret Gregorie and Margret Kynneir, confest shee vsed these wordes for them : They are appointed to declare ther fense of the sinfullnes of countenanceing such wickednes befor the Congregation also.

September 3.—Occasional Meeting of the 4 Presbyteries.—The Presbyterie, confiddering how necessar it is, in this fadde tyme, that the severall Presbyteries meitt together, both for themselves and giving ther advyce to the meettings of the shyre, doe appoint a letter to be sent to Couper, another to Mr. Alexander Moncreiff for Kirkaldie, for advertiseing these Presbyteries, and Mr. Alexander Moncreiff to advertise Dunfermline, to meitt at Couper vpon Friday nixt.

September 17.—Solemne Humiliation.—The quhilk day the Presbyterie

¹ The islands of Orkney and Shetland were ceded by Charles I. to William, seventh Earl of Morton, in 1643. Although the oath here alluded to is termed THE EARL OF MORTON'S OATH, the Editor, after considerable inquiry, can discover no grounds for applying it to him, or to his son who succeeded him in 1649. But there is some reason to suspect that it refers to Patrick Stewart, Earl of Orkney, who was executed in 1615 for his rebellion in Orkney, and his lawless and oppressive acts against the poor inhabitants of those islands. The rebellion was raised at his instigation, while prisoner in Dunbarton Castle, by his bastard son Robert, who administered to his followers " grit Aithes maid upon their suordis to die and leve with him aganis all manner of persones, his Maiestie our sacred Souerane noct being exceptit."—PITCAIRN'S CRIM. TRIALS, 1615.

received a Letter from the Comissioners of the Generall Assemblie, appointing a Fast to be keepeid vpon the defeate of the armie, for the causes formerlie sent; which is appointed to be intimate, and the causes red the nixt Lords day, together with a short Declaration received from them this day; and the solemne humiliation to be keepeid on the Lords day come eight dayes, for the foirsaid caufes.

The brethren are requyred to be earnest in exhorting the feveral paroches to send out ther levies of new or old forces to Stirling, for oppofeing the enemie.

Condoleing and encourageing of Lumisdeane.—The Presbyterie doe appoint Mr. Samuell Rutherfurd, Mr. Colin Adams, and Mr. George Hamilton, to vifite Sir James Lumisdeane the morne, for condoleing his caſe and encourageing him to ſtedfaſtnes, being ane priſoner at this tyme.

October 23.—To try anent any acceſſorie to the Kings late escape, etc.—All the brethren were exhorted to try of any in theſe bounds quho have beene acceſſorie to the Kings Majeftie his late escape, or to the late rebellion in the north, and report ther diligence theirin from tyme to tyme.

October 30.—Charitable collection for our priſoners in England.—The Presbyterie having received a letter from the Comissioners of the Generall Assemblie, ſhewing the ſadde condition of our priſoners in England through famine and nakednes, and that they, with advyce of the Committee of Eſtaites, have concluded a voluntar contribution through the feveral congregations of this Kirk for ther releife; The Presbyterie doe appoint the intimation heirof the nixt Lords day, to be collec̄ted the Sabbath following; in the meanetyme, to advise with the Provinciall Assemblie anent the ſecureing heirof, for the vſe foirsaid.

As alſo, they received another letter from the faids Comissioners deſiring, that not only the Comissioners heir bot other brethren wold attend the nixt meeting of the Comiſſion at Stirling, their being buffines of great importance both to Kirk and State to be agitate then, which was feriouſlie recomended to brethren.

The Presbyterie takeing to their further confidderation the former letter of the Comiſſion, anent the Enormities of Minifters, and the Remedies therof, doe as yet referre it to be confiddered till Monday nixt.

Warning.—The quhilke day, the Presbyterie received a Warning from the Commissioners of the Generall Assemblie, concerning the Malignants in the North now in armes, appointed to be red in the severall Congregations heir.

November 4.—In answer to the letter from the Comissioners of the Generall Assemblie, concerning the Enormities of Ministers and the Remedies heirof, the Presbyterie did begin with this overture:—

The Presbyterie confiddering with fadde regrate, that notwithstanding of a settled Ministrie of able and well gifted men in this placee of the countrey, their is amongyst the greater heir, not onlie litle of the power of godlines to be found, bot even great ignorance and profanitie; doe referre to the approaching dyat of the Provinciall Assemblie, to confidder the causes and remedies heirof on Ministers part, and that they wold appoint some of everie Presbyterie to meitt for confiddering heirof, and to report their diligence to the nixt Synod.

December 11.—Lundie.—The quhilke day, compeirred the Laird of Lundie, quho being seriouſlie examined, denied exprefſlie any acceſſion either to the Kings late escape or to the rifeing in the North, or any foirknowledge of these things, and that he was only in Dundie at that tyme viſiting his brother the Erle of Lauderdale, quho remains their.

December 23.—The quhilke day, the Presbyterie received ane A& of the Comiſſion of the Generall Assemblie, dated Perth December 14, 1650, referring to them Johne Erle of Lauderdale, that they may try the evidence of his repentance, for his acceſſion to the late vnlawfull Engadgement against the kingdome of England, and that thereafter they may receive him to publicke ſatisfaction for that offence. And lykewife received a petition from himſelfe deſireing that he may be admitted to teſtifie his repentance for his acceſſion to that finfull way, and be received to the Comunion and renewing of the Covenant.

The Presbyterie, having at length heard the ſaid Erle of Lauderdale, compeirring befor them, exprefſe and declare his ſenſe of the finfulnes of that Engadgement in the nature and grounds therof, and having heard him humblie acknowledging his acceſſion to that courſe, and finfull forwardnes and a&tivitie above many others in contryveing and carieing on the

fame, withall testfieing his sorrow theirfor, craving pardon of God for it, and promiseing in his strentch never againe to owne that or the lyke course; and being heard anent the Kings Majestie his late escape, quherof for the most part he cleared himselfe, yet in somethings therin his carriage being represented to him to be sinfull, he acknowledged the fame;—doe, after mature deliberation, find that they cannot refuse the said Erle of Lauderdaleill to testifie his repentance publicklie, and to receive the Communion and subscryve the Covenant according to the order prescryved by the Generall Assemblie; and therfor ordaines Mr. James Makgill, minister at Largo, to receive him to publicke satiffaction in the paroch church of Largo, vpon the day of solemne humiliation, and to receive his subscription to the Covenant, and his subscription to the Declaration appointed by the Generall Assemblie 1649 to be subscryved by such as have been accessorie to that Engadgement.

Januar 15, 1651.—Rigs admiffion.—The Presbyterie mett at Ferrie Porton-craig, for admiffion of Mr. Johne Rig.

Januar 29.—Hamilton and Glencarne.—The Presbyterie receiving a reference from the Comiffioners of the Generall Assemblie, referring to them the Duke of Hamilton to be conferred with anent his accessiſſion to the finfull and vnlawfull Engadgement againſt England, and another of the Erle of Glencarne to that fame purpoſe, did appoint the Moderator, Mr. James Wood, Mr. Colin Adams, Mr. David Forrett, and Mr. Walter Comrie, to conferre with their Lordships this day.

February 12.—A letter appointed to be writen to the Comiffioners of the Generall Assemblie, bearing the report made by the brethren appointed to conferre with the Duke of Hammilton and the Erle of Glencarne; quho declared that they had received satiffaction.

February 26.—Anent insolencies of Souldiers.—The Presbyterie being touched with a depe fense of the great dishonour done to God, and fore opprefſions of our congregations, caused by the vngodlie and insolent behaviour of diverse souldiers quartered within our bounds, have refolved to complaine to the Kings Majestie and Committee of Estates, and humblie to supplicate for redrefſe and remedie heirof: And therefore, doe desire heritours or others in our bounds to come to their owne Seſſion the nixt

Lords day in the afternoone, and give in the names of such as are guiltie of abhominable curseing and swearing, profaneing the Lords day by absenting themselves from publicke worship, staying in their quarters, or otherwayes are intemperate persons, or have scandalouslie opprest them by exacting, besyde quhat is due to commanders, moneys unjustlie for souldiers that are not in regiments; or have beaten any for refuseing them what they did vnjustlie desire; that these may be represented to vs on Monday nixt. And appoints everie minister to intimate the same the nixt Lords day after forenoones sermon.

March 3.—Supplication to the King and Committee of Estates.—The Presbyterie conveened for receiving the greivances of the severall paroches by the insolencies of souldiers, which being heard and considered, they concluded vpon a Petition to be sent to the Kings Majestie and Committee of Estates for remedie heirof, and appointed Mr. James Bruce to present the same to them on Tuesday nixt.

Apryle 23.—Conference delayed.—The Presbyterie having formerlie appointed Mrs. Robert Blair, James Wood, and David Forrett to conferre with Mr. Samuell Rutherford, anent his judgement of the publicke resolutions for defence of Religion and the land against the enemie, vnderstanding that he is heavilie seeke, doe referre the said conference.

May 28.—Small.—The severall brethren are advertised to take notice of Helen Small, a leude loose woman come in their bounds, that shee be not permitted to residre amongst them.

June 3.—Anent a voluntar Contribution for the Armie.—The quhilk day, the Presbyterie having received a Letter, together with ane A&t of Parliament, desiring a voluntar loane or giveing of moneyes, for expediting the Armie to the feilds against the comon enemie, and for defence of the land against ther vnjust invasion; and that Presbyteries wold stirre vp the people to this necessar duetie, for severall reasons contained in ther said A&ts and letter,—The severall brethren are appointed to vse ther diligence with the people in ther severall charges, to contribute willinglie and liberallie; and that the samyn be brought in tymeouslie vpon Fryday come eight dayes, and delyvered to James Sword, according to the order of King and Parliament.

July 9.—Intimation of excommunication of Strachen, etc.—The quhilk day, the Presbyterie received a letter from the Commissioners of the Generall Assemblie, desyreiing the intimation of ther excommunication of Johne Swinton sometyme younger of that Ilk, Colonell Archibald Strachen, William Dundas brother to the Laird of Duddingstone, and Lievttenant William Goveane, for ther complyance with the enemie quho hath vngustlie invaded this land; and of Major Andro Abernethie, for rendring the Castle of Edinburgh treacherouslie to them—recomended to the brethren to be done.

September 1.—Letter to Moncke to be writen.—The Presbyterie mett occasionallie for advysing quhat is incumbent to be done by them in relation to certaine brethren latelie taken prisoners at Eliot, as Mr. Robert Dowglas, Mr. James Hamilton, Mr. Mungo Law, Mr. Johne Smith, Mr. James Sharp, Mr. George Pattullo, Mr. Johne Ratray, ministers, and Mr. Andro Ker, Clerk to the Generall Assemblie, did appoint a letter to be writen to Lievetenant Generall Moncke for ther releife, and a letter to the brethren for comforting and encourageing them vnder ther suffering; and Mr. Alexander Wedderburne appointed to goe with both.¹

October 20.—The brethren of the Presbyterie being conveened, and laying to heart the present sadde condition of the Kirk of God in this land, and the dangers and confusions that threaten the establisched Governement and discipline of this Kirk, which is to them verie precious; as they resolve never to exceed the bounds of ther calling in meddling with maters civile or of peace or warre, so they doe find themselves bound in conscience and by ther calling to Declare:—

¹ In NICOLL'S DIARY OF TRANSACTIONS IN SCOTLAND, August 1651, is the following notice of the occurrence here alluded to. “This Kingdome, both Kirk and Stait, being always devydit both in judgement and opinion, and one pulpit speiking aganes another, the enymie thair-upone tuik advantage, and gat mony opportunitieis of victorie. And heiring that thair wes a Committee of the Estaites than halding at Eliot [Alyth] in the north, besyde Killimure or thair-about, the Inglyssches finding this Committee to be cairless, wanting a gaird, or ony considerable assistance for the tyme, thai raid up fra Dundie quyetlie in the nycht, upon Thursday the 28 of August, come upone the Committee quyetlie in the morning, tuik thame prissoneris, and robbit thame of all that thai haid, and schippit thame toward England, quhair thai wer committit.” P. 56.

Firslie, That they doe vnamouslie assert and hold the late Generall Assemblie begunne at St. Andros, and continued at Dundie to have beeue a lawfullie constitute and frie Assemblie of this Kirk, as other approuen Generall Assemblies of this Kirk.

Secondlie, That their is no meeting ecclesiasticall of quhatsoever name or nature in this land, that hath any warrand from God or man to claime any publicke ecclesiastickie authoritie over the said Assemblie or the Commissioners theirof; or to assume power in that capacitie or way to examine, or give any publicke judgement vpon the fame, except another lawfull frie Assemblie of this Kirk; or yet to claime any power over the severall church judicatories of the land.

Thridlie, That vntill another frie Generall Assemblie may be had through the mercie of God, quhatsoever ecclesiasticall meeting, not having authoritie from the said Assemblie, fall assume to themselves the power of a publicke Kirk judicatorie over the congregations of the land; or fall take vpon them, as in that capacitie, to emitt Warnings, Letters, Remonstrances, Causes of Fasts, etc.; or that fall presume to censure any person quhatsoever;—Is and fall be looked vpon and holden by this Presbyterie as ane vnlawfull meeting, ther authoritie as vsurped, and all ther acts of that kynd are and fall be holdin as deids of private men a&tng without a calling, and noways binding this Presbyterie, bot voyde and null befor God and man.

Fourthlie, That they will never countenance nor concurre with any such vsurped authoritie tending to the subversion of the establisched governement of the kirk; althogh they doe heartilie approve conferences of gracious brethren quho follow after peace, and intend that way the repaireing of our woefull breaches.

Mr Patrick Scowgall appointed to correspond with Couper, Mr. James Makgill with Dunfermline, and Mr. Henrie Rymer with Kirkaldie, and to shew them ther foirsaid a&t, and the former appointment of ane Fast.

Marche 31, 1652.—Letter, Sharp.—A letter appointed to be writen in name of the Presbyterie to Mr. James Sharp, prisoner at Lunden; Mr. James Wood and Mr. Andro Honyman appointed to draw it vp.

*October 13.—*Mr. Alexander Edward admitted minister at Dininnow.

Januar 12, 1653.—Newburne.—The quhilk day, Mr. George Hamilton made report that, according to the order of the Presbyterie, he preached and keeped Seffion at Newburne the last Lords day; quher the Seffion did vnamoufie nominate Mr. Robert Honyman, regent, to be their minister, and that the whole congregation gave their assent to the election. And the Seffion desired that he may be entred to his tryalls by the Presbyterie, in relation to that charge. The said Mr. Robert being called and heard, heirin submitted himselfe to the Presbyterie; quho appointed him to adde to the exercize the nixt day, and to handle the contraverſie *De merito mortis Christi*, as his adres will permitt.

Kembak.—Mr. Alexander Wedderburne declared, that the people of Kembak are desireous to heare moe young men befor they proceid to election. Mr. James Buglois appointed to preach ther the nixt Lords day.

Januar 26.—Mr. James Buglois, not having preached at Kembak the last Lords day, is desired to preach ther the nixt Lords day, which he vndertooke. And Mr. John Rig appointed to preach there the Sabbath following, and sie if the heads of families there will agree, and proceid to election of one of these young men they have heard.

Februar 9.—Mr. Johne Rig made report, that the heads of families in Kembak paroch most of them declared they were readie for election, only David Couper defired to heare moe yong men, and Kembak yonger protested against all. The Presbyterie appointed Mr. Laurence Charters to be writen to, and defired to preach there on Sabbath come eight dayes.

Kennedy.—The Presbyterie doe appoint the severall brethren to bring in the fourtie shillings appointed by the Provinciall Assemblie for intertaineing Peter Kennedy, a blind boy, at the Colledge this yeir.

Februar 23.—The Presbyterie, being informed that Mr. Laurence Charters hath not preached at Kemback, nor is not to be expected at this tyme, doe desire Mr. Thomas Lentron to preach ther the nixt Lords day.

March 9.—Colvill.—The Presbyterie received a paper from Mr. Samuell Colvill, the anſuer quherof is delayed till he bring a testimoniall from the place of his residence before he came heer, as he was formerlie appointed.

March 23.—Master Alexander Edward made report, that he preached at Kembak the last Lords day, and betweene sermons conveened the here-

tours, elders, and heads of families, for election of a minister, according to the ordinance of the Provinciall Assemblie ; quho, by pluralitie of voyces, out of these thrie they heard laft, to witt, Mr. James Buglois, Mr. Johne Bairdie, and Mr. Patrik Peacocke, did choise Mr. Johne Bairdie¹ to be ther minister, desiring that he may be entred to his tryalls for that effect. The Presbyterie doe vnamouſlie approve the election ; bot in regard of ane A&t of the Generall Assemblie, vnto which Kembak alledges the election not to be agreeable, the Presbyterie doe referre the fame to the Provinciall Assemblie.

Apryle 27.—[Mr. Robert Honyman admitted to Newburne.]

May 18.—Rutherfords Paper.—The paper given in to the Presbyterie, November 5, 1651, by Mr. Samuel Rutherford, cannot be found, that the Presbyterie may give ane anſuer thereto, according to ther promife.

July 6.—Wilson, Session Clerk, deposed.—The Presbyterie having found Mr. Thomas Wilson, schoolemaster of Largo, and clerk to the Session ther, by his owne confession to be guiltie of curseing, by profane nameing of the devill twyſe vpon the Lords day, quhen the Communion wes celebrate, of bacheling faith in the face of the Session, and flighting his ministers admonition for the fame ; and lykewayes, having heard the minister and most part of the elders declare, that he is ane ordinarie taunter and tipler, judges him vnfitt for the charge quherin he is : And therfor, suspending him presentlie from his charge in the Session, they appoint him also to remove from the charge of the schoole betuixt this and Mertimes, and in the meaneytyme to make publicke satiffaction befor the pulpit for his scandall.

August 17.—Colvill.—The Presbyterie, being desired by the Masters of the Old Colledge to testifie quhat is knownen to them concerning the behaviour of Mr. Samuell Colvill dureing his abode within the bounds of this Presbyterie, doe returne this anſuer :—That althogh it belongeth properlie to the ministrie and elderſhip of St. Andrewes (quher he hath lived ane great part of ſome yeirs paſt) to give particular teſtimonie of his behaviour, yet doe find it incumbent to them to declare, that they have oftymes bein

¹ Mr. Bairdie was, however, never inducted. Owing to disputes among the parishioners regarding the election of a minister, the church appears to have remained vacant from 1650 till July 1656, when Mr. John Wardlaw was admitted.

much offended with his levitie, vnsettlednes of spirit, and his disforderlie cariage toward his reverend Brother, presenting to vs raileing lybells against him,¹ for which he hath bein diverse tymes gravelie rebuiked. And althogh he hath remaned so long a tyme in ther bounds, yet they have never to this day heard any good report of him, but very much anent his dissolute life and conversation.

Sept. 21.—Discharge for Timmouth prisoners.—The quhilke day, Thomas Finlay presented a discharge subfcryved by Lievttenant Dugud of 229 lib. 6 s. 8 d., received by him from the said Thomas for the vse of his fellow prisoners at Timmouth Caftle. The Presbyterie appoints the ref of that contribution to be broght in with all diligence, and delyvered to the said Thomas Finlay.

Nov. 9.—Kembak.—The Presbyterie mett at Kembak for visitation of that kirk. The whole heads of families being called vpon and broght in, and being enquyred if they were not wearied of lying destitute of a ministerie, and if they were not desireous to be provyded with ane able and faithfull minister,—they professed thair earnest desire that the Presbyterie wold endevore ther speedie settling. Only Kembak laboured to persuade the people that the Presbyterie were come ther to prey vpon ther simplicitie. These present referred the confidderation of the busines to the nixt day.

December 21.—Dirigies.—The brethren, in ther feveral charges, are exhorted to take notice of Dirigies after burialls, for suppreffing them.

March 15, 1654.—Dease.—The quhilke day, compeiried befor the Presbyterie John Dease in St. Andrews, quho being rebuiked for stubbornes and ignorance in confessing a fault of miscalling a woman, and not acknowledging sinfulnes therin, is remitted againe to the Seffion ther.

*Apryle 3.—*The Presbyterie confiddering the lamentable ignorance of God, as amongst many others, so particularlie amongst these quho are hirds, doe referre that busines to the Provinciall Assemblie, that they may confidder of overtures for remeid heirof.

August 30.—Anent hirds keeping publicke worship.—The Presbyterie confiddering that hirds doe ordinarlie absent themselves from publicke ordi-

¹ Samuel Colvill, author of a Mock Poem, or the Whig's Supplication, was the younger brother of Dr. Alexander Colvill, a learned divine, who had been Professor of Divinity in the University of Sedan, and at this time filled the same chair in St. Mary's College, St. Andrews.

nances of Gods worship, vpon the Lords day, the whole summer and harvest tyme, do referre to the Provinciall Assembly how this renewed finne may be remeided.

Oct. 4.—Anent decayed bridges.—The Presbyterie taking to their serious consideracion the great decay of bridges in these bounds, particularlie the Bowbridge of St. Andrewes, the Innerbridge of Leuchars, and the bridge at Dairfie, did nominate ther brethren, Mrs. Robert Blair, James Wood, Andro Honyman, Walter Comrie, Patrik Scougall, and James Sharp, to confidder of overtures for reparation of these and the lyke, to be presented to the Presbyterie the nixt day. And ane correspondent to be sent to the Presbyterie of Couper, anent the bridge of Dairfie.

October 25.—Decayed bridges referred to the Synod.—The Presbyterie, confiddering the great decay of bridges in these bounds, doe referre to the Synod to confidder how they may be repaired.

February 7, 1655.—Cairnes permitted to marie.—The quhilk day, John Cairnes in Camrone paroch, presented a petition to the Presbyterie, quherin he professed to be convinced of the finfulnes of his former loose walking and conversation, and promised a more sober way of conversation afterwards; and supplicateing, that in regard he being a widow, and having diverse small and young children, he may be permitted to marie; quhilk was granted.¹

March 21.—Act for having the Byble, Acts of Generall and Provinciall Asssemblies, and of the Presbyterie at the Presbyterie.—The Presbyterie confiddering that for more clearnes in doubtfull cases, it is expedient they have at all tymes the Byble, the A&ts of Generall and Provinciall Asssemblies, and of the Presbyterie, to advyse with, doe appoint that at all tymes these be brought to the Table quhen they fitt downe, and remaine ther till they close ther meeting.

May 30.—Edinburgh Collection.—The Presbyterie doe referre to the severall Kirk Sessions, the maner of collect^g for releife of these quho suffered by the late burnings at Edinburgh, intreating it may be gone about with convenient diligence.

¹ John had been convicted of “ fornication, blasphemie, ryotousnes, drunkennes, and abusing his neighbours,” and had been ordered to do penance, and debarred the communion.

Junij 27.—Erlshall younger and Ladie Arnott ther proclamation stopped for 15 dayes.—The Presbyterie having received ane appellation by Mr. James Reid of Pitlethie, from the Kirk Session of Leuchars, anent ther not stoppeing proclamation of bannes matrimoniall betuixt Andro Bruce, feare of Erlshall, and his daughter the Ladie Arnott, the Presbyterie doe agree, that the proclamation of the said bannes matrimoniall be stopped for fyftein dayes; partlie because ther was too great rashnes in the parties in that busines; and secondlie, that parents on both parts may be dealt with in a freindlie way for bringing them to a good vnderstanding amongst themselves therin. Mr. Robert Blair and Mr. Samuell Rutherford, nominate to deale with Pitlethie, and Mr. James Bruce and Mr. Alexander Wedderburne, with the Laird of Erlshall elder.

Thomson intended bestialtie.—Compeired John Thomson, sometyme parochiner of Kembak, now resident in the paroch of Largo, quho declared, that be reason of trouble in his mynd, he reveiled to Mr. Robert Bennett a purpose of committing bestialtie with a meare, bot did not goe about committing that vnnaturall finne. The Presbyterie referred him to be instructed by the minister of Largo.

July 26.—Mr. Robert Macward, student in divinitie, desiring to enter to his tryalls, recommended for that effect by the joyst concurrence of the Masters of the New Colledge, gatt assignd for the first part quhairof, Rom. 5. v. 1.

August 1.—The private exercise in Rom. 5. v. 1, delyvered by Mr. Robert Makward, censured and approven. He is appointed for his further tryall to handle the contraversie, *De praefentia Christi in coena*.

October 10.—No exercise, be reason that Mr. Robert Makwards theses were not delyvered at the Synod.

Mr. Robert Makward was desired to give in his theses presentlie, and being desired to attend Mrs. Colin Adams, David Forrett, Patrik Scougall, and Henrie Rymer, for conferring with him this day 15 dayes, after his delyverie of his commonheid, concerning his not joyneing in a fast appointed by the Assemblie 1655, and his joyneing in a protestation in the meeting of the Vniversitie against the chooing of Commissioners to the Generall Assemblie, because indicted by a preceeding Assemblie of a cor-

rupt constitution ; he refused the conference, because he thought to submitt to a conference of that kynd a receding from that quhilk he formerlie owned, quhilk he mynded not to doe; and went away, not offering his theses.¹

October 10.—Havilland, Englishman.—A petition was presented by ane English gentleman, Sir Anthonie Haviland, having a passe from the Justice of peace in Northumberland, and a Scottish woman being his wife ; in which Petition he represented his fadde condition, and desired some present help. In ansuer to which, the Presbyterie appoints everie brother to bring in some releife for him this day moneth at furtheſt.

Nov. 14.—Petition for prisoners at Halyrudehouse.—A petition was presented by Charles Areskine, from severall prisoners in the Abbey of Halyrudhouse, being in verie great distres, earnestlie intreating present releife ; which petition was accepted, and the Presbyterie recommended that the brethren vfe diligence with the severall Sessions for the obtaineing of something for ther help, and to advyse which fall be the fitteſt course to be taken for that effect, and ane ansuer to be given this day moneth.

November 28.—Anent May guiltie of attempt of Bestialitie.—Mr. Alexander Wedderburne appointed to intimate to his people from pulpit, the Presbyteries diligence in enquyreing after John May, guiltie of the attempt of bestialitie, and ther purpose of making search in other parts of the kingdome, withall desiring them againe if they know quher he is, to declare it to the Presbyterie.

Januar 23, 1656.—Mr. James Sharp, having represented to the Presbyterie his deepe ſenſe of the weightie charge of the miniftrie of Craill, and withall how imposſible he found it to perſuade the parochiners there to grant any conſtant and ſettled manteinance for ane actuall minister to be a fellow labourer with him in that worke ; as alſo, how willing he found them, in reſpect to his bodilie weaknes, and dureing his owne abode

¹ Mr. Robert was, however, licensed by ſome other Presbyterie, and appointed one of the Ministers of Glasgow. After the Reſto ration of Charles II. having preached againſt the “ glar ing defections of the times,” he was arreſted, tried “ for ſedition and treasonable preaching,” and obliged to leave Scotland. He went to Holland, and was chosen ſecond minister of the Scottish Church in Rotterdam, where he died in 1681, (Steven’s History, pp. 28 and 336, Edin. 1833, 8vo.) He was the author of the *Poor Man’s Cup of Cold Water*, and many other tracts printed in Holland during the times of the perſecution of the Covenanter s.

amongst them, to contribute somequhat yeirlie for the manteinance of any approven expectant quhom they pleased to choose to be ane helper to him ; did crave the Presbyteries advyce, whither he might not accept of quhat was granted by them : which the Presbyterie, confiddering severall practises in the lyke case, thought he might saiflie doe vntill more might be obtained.

Feb. 2.—Wardlaws Declaration.—Mr. John Wardlaw was present this day, and being interrogated, whither or noe he disfowned the Comission anno 1650 as expyred, because of the two Generall Assemblies which followed immediatlie ? Ansuered affirmativelie. And the Presbyterie being satissified therwith, appoints Mrs. Robert Blair, Samuell Rutherfurd, Patrik Scougall, to deale with Brathins for furthering the plantation of Kembak.

May 21.—Vilants admission.—The Presbyterie conveened at Ferrie-porton-craig for the admision of Mr. William Vilant to the charge of the ministrie at that place.

*July 2.—*The Presbyterie conveened at Kembak for the admision of Mr. John Wardlaw to the charge of the ministrie ther.

*July 30.—*Mr. William Row, correspondent from Couper Presbyterie, desired advyce anent some Anabaptists in the paroch of Couper, quho wer laitlie rebaptized. The Presbyterie thinks fitt that the mater of the Anabaptists be represented to the meeting at Edinburgh.

September 24.—Symzone in Camrone.—Compeired, Andro Symzone in the paroch of Camrone, quho being challenged of drunkennes, denied the same, although it was proven ; and appeared to be stupid and sensles of finne and the censure inflicted on him ; being threatened with excommunication, it appeared not that he was moved therwith. The Presbyterie resolved, seing there were severalls in such a condition, to referre the mater in these to the Synod, that they might know quhat course sould be takin with these, quho, after suspenzion from the Sacrament of the Lords Supper, were not weighted with the censure, and fell in new scandalls.

October 21.—Act for better keeping the Presbyterie.—The Presbyterie, being much weighted that many brethren were oft absent from the Presbyterie, others come late, and others having come doe withdraw themselves from the Presbyterie, did appoint that these quho wer absent, having no lawfull excuse, sould be sharplie censured according to ther fault. And

besides, it was by consent agreed on, that the absents should pay eight shillings; these quho come late 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ s.; these that withdraw 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ s. And if they shoule offer to excuse themselves, that befor ther excuse were heard, the money shoule be laid downe, and if the excuse were not found relevante, given to Mr. Henrie Rymer, collector of this money.

November 12.—Mure, Pyper.—The quhilk day, compeirde John Mure, quho was rebuked for being the author of much disorder by his pypeing; and warned, that if he fall be found afterward making disorder in any congregation within these bounds, recourse will be had to the civile magistrate for taking order with him.

Sanders and Bell recommended.—Thomas Sanders and William Bell, poore scholers in St. Andrewes, recommended to the severall Sessions, and it is desired that everie Session give them 20 s. or two merks.

Private Censure.—The whole brethren present approven as faithfull and diligent in their calling, and of a holie and Christian conversation.

December 3.—Supplie for Grecian Ministers.—The quhilk day, the Presbyterie [received] a Supplication from Anastasius Comnenus, a minister of the Grecian Church, together with some testificates anent himselfe and these for quhom he did supplicate, desiring some charitable supplie for his owne and other fiftene ministers, captives at Argiers, ther releife.

December 17.—Pittenweems Supplication referred.—The quhilk day, the Presbyterie received a petition from the burgh of Pittenweeme, desiring help by a contribution, for the repaireing of ther harbor; desiring also a recommendation of ther fadde condition to other adiacent cities, burghes, Presbyteries and Synods. The Presbyterie referred the supplication to the Synod.

Jannuar 28, 1657.—Wood and Scougall to meit at Edinburgh.—The Presbyterie, being advertised that fundrie ministers are to meit at Edinburgh the next moneth, about somethings relateing to the governement of Christis Kirk in this land, did nominate Mr. James Wood and Mr. Patrik Scougall for assistance and giving advyce therin.

February 11.—[Mr. Robert Honyman, minister of Newburne, ordained to be transported to Dysert.]

Feb. 25.—Letter from Cathnes.—The quhilk day, the Presbyterie received

a letter from the Presbyterie of Cathnes, by Mr. James Adams one of ther number, declareing the defolate condition of that corner of the countrey, by the paucitie of labourers in the worke of God ther, desireing the recomendation of some to help to supplie vacand congregations ther. The Presbyterie recomended this to the brethren nominate for the former busines with the ministers of St. Andrewes, to confidder heirof and report.

Apryle 22.—St. Andrewes.—The quhilk day, the Presbyterie did receive a recomendation granted by the Synod in favours of the toune of St. Andrewes, for a colle&tion for advanceing ther harbour and stone bridge that are both ruined. The Presbyterie, with ther owne consent, delayed it for a tyme.

September 2.—Conference appointed with Balcormo younger.—The Presbyterie being informed that John Arnot younger of Balcormo, continues in the grosse finne of intemperance, notwithstanding the Lords hand is heavie vpon him in a greivous disease, and has laitlie confesseſſed adulterie, doe nominate Mr. David Forrett and Mr. Robert Bennett to conferre with him, and hold foorth to him the danger of his finfull way.

September 16.—Dr. Colvill requested to write.—The Presbyterie, having fein and confiddered a litle booke latelie put to the preſſe by Doctor Colvill, did earneſtli requeiſt him to goe about more of that kynd.¹

Deposed Ministers referred to the Provinciall.—The Presbyterie, being certainlie informed of the great distresse and povertie quherin these Ministers quho were deposed in Angus are, doe referre the confidderation of ther case to the approaching Synod.

March 24, 1658.—Recomendation to Ministers, and reference to the Synod anent quartering of Souldieris.—The Presbyterie doe ſeriouſlie recommend it to minifters in burghes, to deale als effectuallie as they can, with magiſtrates in ther feveral respe&tive burghes, that no ſouldiers be quartered in ſuch houſes quher women only remaine; and doe heirby referre to the nixt Synod how this may be helped throughout the bounds.

*July 7.—*The Presbyterie being informed that of late ther hath bein a

¹ This “little book” was probably that entitled “De Loco Parallelo, obscuero et difficili Jacobi cap. 4. vers. 5 and 6, Prælectiones Quinque.” Edinburgi, 1656, 4to.

buriall in the kirk [of Pittenweeme], contrair to A&ts of the Generall Assemblie, did disapprove the same. The minister and elders declared that ane act is past in ther Session that the lyke fall not be heirafter.

September 1.—Fast appointed.—The Presbyterie, confiddering the verie great vnseasonablenes of the weather by a great raine in tyme of harvest, threatening to destroy the fruities of the ground, did agree that ther fall be solemne humiliation and calling vpon God by prayer and fasting within ther bounds the nixt Lords day ; and to continue the Lords day following, and therafter as neid fall requyre.

Mure, Pyper.—The quhilke day, diverse brethren complained that John Mure, pyper, is occasion of much difforder in ther congregations, by his pypeing at brythells, and vnseasonable drinkings. The said John compeirng, the Presbyterie discharged him to play at any brythells, or at drunken lawings, with certification if he be found to contraveene, he will be proceeded against with the highest censures of the Kirk.

December 1.—Fairfull in St. Andrewes.—Compeared William Fairfull, quho confess, the speaches vttered by him anent the League and Covenant, and of the Ministers of Christ, were verie rash and sinfull, and did solemnlie vndertake not to be found in the lyke heirafter. The Presbyterie doe appoint, that he be spoken to anent these speaches publicklie befor the congregation of St. Andrewes, and report to be made therof, and therafter are to confidder quhat further to doe theranent.

Februar 16, 1659.—Hamiltons admission.—The Presbyterie conveened at Newburne for admission of Mr. George Hamilton younger, to the charge of the ministerie ther.

Februar 23.—Anent Poland Protestants banished.—The Presbyterie having heard of the distressed condition of many banished Protestants in Poland and the confines of Bohemia, for whose releife a voluntar contribution is necessar, doe referre that busines to the nixt day.

March 2.—Principall of the New Colledge anent Rait.—The quhilke day, Mr. Samuell Rutherford, Principall of the New Colledge, did lay befor the Presbyterie his verie deepe fense of the vacancie of the thrid Masters charge in that colledge, and his verie earnest desire to have it planted with a godlie and able man ; and that he hath bein thinking, how to have Mr.

William Raitt, minister of Brechin, settled in that charge, earneftlie intreating the Presbyteries advyce and concurrence therin. The Presbyterie nominate Mrs. Robert Blair, James Wood, James Bruce, Andro Honyman, Alexander Wedderburne, with the Moderator, to conferre with the Masters of the New Colledge theranent, and to report the nixt day.

March 30.—Colvill nominates Sharp for the New Colledge.—The quhilk day, Doctor Alexander Colvill, professor of divinitie in the New Colledge, having laid out to the Presbyterie the great neid of having the thrid Masters place ther planted, did desire the Presbyteries concurrence for planting therof by Mr. James Sharp, minister of Craill.

*Apryle 7.—*Whereas both the masters of the New Colledge being verie sensible of the great neid there is, that the vacand place of one of the Masters of that Colledge be speedilie and well planted, earneftlie intreating the Presbyteries concurrence and advyce therin. The Presbyterie, being verie sensible how necessar it is that this be done, doe seriouslie and earneftlie recomend the mater to the Synod for advyce therin.

*May 11.—*The quhilk day, Mr. Samuell Rutherford declared to the Presbyterie, that he adheres to his nomination of Mr. William Raitt, for the vacand charge of the New Colledge.

*May 12.—*The Presbyterie, confiddering quhat is referred to them in reference to planting of the vacand Masters place in the New Colledge, it being a weightie busines, and many brethren absent, the Moderator appointed to write to all the absent brethren, that a frequent meeting of the Presbyterie may be at the kirk of Kembak Tuesday nixt, at eight a clooke in the morning, for confiddering heirof.

*Junij 8.—*The brethren desired to observe how the fynes imposed by Justices of peace vpon fornicators are employed, that the poore be not wronged of quhat is due to them by the law.

*August 31.—*The Presbyterie, confiddering the great scandall committed by such quho having tokens allowed to them for receiving the Sacrament of the Lords Supper, doe not make vse therof themselves, bot give them to such as are not allowed by the minister and fession to that ordinance vpon good grounds, doe appoint both the parties, in such cafes, to be publicklie rebuked.

Junij 6, 1660.—The quhilk day, Mr. Samuell Rutherfurd, Principall of the New Colledge, intreated the Presbyterie, and brethren ioyned with them for their advyee and concurrence, in planting the vacand charge in that Colledge by Mr. William Raitt; quho being removed, he did thereafter present a supplication to the Presbyterie and Commissioners of the Synod, desyring ther concurrence toward the calling of Mr. William Raitt, or if that be not obtained, that there be nothing done by advyee or otherwayes, in reference to the fettling of the vacand place in the New Colledge, which may any wayes prejudge the full and frie consultation and determination of a hoped for Generall Assemblie. The Presbyterie resolves to doe nothing that may prejudge the mater in a Generall Assemblie, or bind vp there owne hands from voteing frielie therin.

Junij 13.—Advyee anent Sharp to the New Colledge.—The Presbyterie, considering the minutes of the former day, touching the planting of the New Colledge, appointed the ensuing paper to be drawin vp, and approved of it as ther sence in that mater. Mr. Samuell Rutherfurd, Principall of the New Colledge, dissented from the paper, and desired a copie therof vnder the Clerks hand, which was consented.

“ Although the Presbyterie, and others ioyned to them by the Synod, desyred the Masters of the New Colledge to give in quhat overtures they thought fitt to facilitate the plantation of the New Colledge, and the speakers quhat they had to speak in that mater, the advysing quherin was committed to them by the Synod, befor they sould proceid to give ther advyee theranent, and the said Masters were pleased to adde nothing to quhat they had formerlie spaken; yet efter they had withdrawn, and the Presbyterie had begun to give ther judgement, Mr. Samuell Rutherfurd, Principall of the New Colledge, came in, and presented a paper, desyring the Presbyterie either to concurre with him in calling Mr. William Raitt, or els that they sould doe nothing which might prejudge the libertie of the Generall Assemblie, quho had power to call to that station. In reference to which, the Presbyterie declares, that they think fitt to give their advyee in this mater, and that in order to obedience of the Synod calling them to it, and that ther giveing ther judgment and advyee doeth neither as to ther intention nor vpon the mater prejudge the libertie of the Assem-

blie that hath power to call; neither mynd they by this ther advyce, (if it fall take no effect), to prejudge themselves or ther Commissioners of any competent libertie of judgeing in this mater, according to ther calling in any Assemblie, quherof the Lord in his goodness fall give them opportunitie.

“The Presbyterie, having received ane A&t of the last Provinciall Assemblie at Dunfermline, appointing them with some other brethren ioyned with them, to give ther help by ther advyce to the Masters of the New College, for the speedie plantation of the vacand profession of Divinitie in that Colledge, by some person fitted and qualified for that place, and confiddering that ther worthie brother Mr. James Sharp, minister at Craill, quho, for his pietie, learning, and prudence, is eminentlie fitted and qualified for that profession in this Seminarie of the Church, and that he is a man able to be speciallie vsefull to that whole Vniversitie, having bein for many yeirs a member and professor of philosophie in a colledge ther; as also, confiddering that he is vnder the jurifdiction of the Synod and Presbyterie, and may be more easilie and speedilie transplanted to that place than any other quho is not so, doe therfor give ther advyce to the Masters of the New Colledge to invite and call him to that place and profession, and doe promise to give ther concurrence therto to the uttermost of their power.”

November 7.—Derfy and Lathoker.—Sir George Morefone and Lathoker, referred by the Seffion of St. Andrews to the Presbyterie, for going to the fingle combate, were called and compeired not, are to be summoned to the nixt day.

November 28.—A letter from the Lord Chancelour and Earle of Rothes, for planting Mr. James Sharpe in the New College.—This day, the Presbyterie receaved a letter from the Lord Chancelour and the Earle of Rothes, in reference to the planting of the charge in the New Colledge, vacant by Mr. James Woods transportation from it, defires it may be filled by Mr. James Sharpe, and the rather because of an A&t of the laft Synode relating to that buffines. The diligence heirin is referred to Dr. Colvill.

Januar 30, 1661.—The Presbyterie, confiddering that matters are now or may be in agitation, that concerne the interests of Christs Kirke in this

land, in the Parliament, doe appoint ther brethren Mr. David Forrett, Mr. Hary Raymor, to attend at Edinburgh and seek advyce, and do quhat may be for preservation of the interests of Christs Kirke in this land; and this without prejudice of the former appointment.

Februar 13.—Monnepennie captive among the Turks.—This day Thomas Monnepennie, 24 years captive among the Turks, was recomended to the severall Sessions.

Apryle 17.—Wheras, the Presbyterie, Apryle 1, 1661, condiscended vpon two Papers, the one intituled *A Supplication to his Grace his Majesties Commissioner*, the other, *A seasonable Exhortation, etc.*; to be referred and humblie offered to the considderation of the Synode, etc.; as followeth in the A&t of reference, and that the said two papers being read once in the audience of the Synode, and the judgement of some members enquired therupon, before the judgement and vote of the whole Synode could be had vpon them; the Synode was, by a noble man present at that tyme, commanded in his Majesties name, vnder the paine of rebellion, preftently to rife, and was forthwith broken vp. And the Presbyterie, having now againe taken into serious consideration the saidis two papers, approves both of them; and that as to the matter and manner as containing nothing but that, which in ther judgement as just and necessarie to have been done by the Synode in this tyme, when fundrie wieghtie matters of the reformed religion recievied, profeffed, and pra&tised in this Kingdome and Kirke are in apparent danger; and appoints the full tenour of the saids papers to be infert and registrated in the Presbyterie book, ther to remaine *ad memoriam*.¹

May 23.—It is appointed by the Presbyterie that everie brother of the ministrie within ther bounds on the nixt Lords day, after the forenoone sermon, signifie to ther respective congregations, that the Presbyterie having hard that the Estates of Parliament, by an A&t proclaimed at the market crosses of some townes within these bounds, required that on Wednesday nixt, the 29 of this instant May, ther be solemne commemoration with thanksgiveing for his Majesties happie restauration to his throne. The Presbyterie, being verie sensible of the great mercie of God towards

¹ These papers have not, however, been inserted.

these lands in breaking the yoke of the Usurpers tirrany and oppression off the neck of his people in these kingdoms, and restoring to us our rightfull dread soveraigne, and his Majesties lawfull governement; and being very willing to evidence and testifie upon every occasion ther loyalty and cordiall affection, which they, with the people of God in this kingdome, have always borne towards his Majesties person and government, and the persons and governement of his royall predecessours, hath appointed that every minister of this Presbyterie shall, the nixt Lords day, warne ther people to be assembled solemnly the said 29 day of May for hearing sermon, giving thanks to God for that his great mercy of restoring of our King to his just right, and for praying for blessings to his person and governement, and that he may more and more be fitted to be a blissted instrument for preserving and premoveing the truth of Religion in these lands: And withall, that they do prudently informe ther severall people, that the observation of such dayes, for commemoration of such a singular mercie, doth not import any holyness in the day, such as God himselfe hath put vpon the Sabbath day, which none but God himselfe can put vpon any day.

December 4.—[Mr. John Middleoune admitted minister at Leuchars.]

December 18.—This day was received from the Sheriffe clearke a copy of the Secret Counsells a&t for praying for the Queen, Queen Mother, and the Duke of Yorke; which they willingly yeeld obedience unto.

October 15, 1662.—The Presbyterie could not meete before this day because of the lawes and proclamations made by the State, inhibiting the meeting therof as formerly constitute.¹

December 21.—The whilke day, the Presbyterie mett at St. Leonards College kirke, and did admitt Mr. James Weems to the ministrie ther.

Craill, August 5, 1663.—[Mr. Alexander Edward transported from Dinninow, and admitted minister at Craill.]

September 24.—[Mr. George Patullo transported from Newtyle in Angus, and admitted minister at Kingsbarns.]

September 30.—[Mr. John Auchenlaike transported from Inchture in Angus, and admitted minister at Newburn.]

¹ There had been no meeting since 15 January previous.

November 11.—[This day, Mr. William Moore was admitted minister of Dininow.]

*Aprile 20, 1664.—*This day Mr. John Auchinlaike, minister of Newburne, gave in a reference from ther Seffion to the Presbyterie, containing two scandals committed by Robert Fairfull, parishoner ther; first, in that he profained the sacred name of God, and in his discourse in the alehouse did make a mocke of the praifes given by the congregation to the blessed Trinity, useing these words, “This to yow Brother, Glory to the Father, and the Sone, and to the Holy Ghost;” and desired George Fleeming to write in his letter, “Glory to the Father and the Sone,” in a most contemptuous manner. 2dly, In that he called the publick reading of the Holy Scriptures, and the singing of Psalmes before the minister came to the pulpit, the Messe, useing these wordes, “They are bussie within at the Messe, and yon is the old Messe got up again.” These scandals being judged by the Seffion to be too considerable for them to determine in, have referred them to the Presbyterie to be tryed by them, and have appointed the said Robert to attend ther meeting. The Presbyterie, after serious consideration of the said reference, appointed him to be called in before them. He not compeirng, they ordaine George Nairne, officer to the Presbyterie, to summond him *pro 2do.* against the next day.

*May 4.—*Robert Fairfull being called compeirred, and being interrogated anent the accusations given in against him. As to the first article, consisting of two parts, first, in profaning the sacred name of God, and in his discourse in the alehouse, mocking at the Doxologie, useing the wordes as formerly set downe; 2dly, in desiring George Fleeming to write in his letter as before: The first he simplie denied; the second he granted he spoke, but for his vindication he said, “Ther are many which begin ther letters with *Laus Deo;*”¹ and he thinking that none wold offend at quhat he said, he desired his brother write so in his letter, because he saw him long in beginning of it. As for the seconf, his calling the publique reading of the Scriptures the Masse, he said, he wold neither deny it nor confess it.

¹ “*Laus Deo!* was the first entry by merchants and tradesmen of our forefathers’ days, in beginning their new account books with the new year.”—*Hone’s Every Day Book.*

The Presbyterie, finding him to prevaricate, appointed George Nairne to summond the witnesSES against the nixt day.

Maij 18.—Robert Fairfull being called compiered. He, as formerly, persifted in denyall. The witnesSES summond for to declaire quhat they knew in his bussines compiered, to quhom the Presbyterie signified, that they were hopefull to prevale with Robert Fairfull another way, and therefore delayed the receiving of ther declarations this day. Robert Fairfull was appointed to attend the meeting of the bretheren at the Arch-bishops house.

Junij 1.—Robert Fairfull referred back by the Presbyterie to the Seßion of Newburne, and Mr. John Auchinlaike is to make report to the Presbyterie quhat satiffa&tion he maketh to them.

Junij 15.—Mr. John Auchinlaike, minister at Newburne, according to the Presbyteries order, made report that Robert Fairfull had satiffied ther Seßion ; quherupon the bretheren declared themselves wel pleased, and are to proceed no further in that matter.

Julij 15.—This day, Mr. William Moore was admitted minister at St. Andrews.

Julij 26.—The whilke day, Mr. James Rattary was admitted minister at St. Mennans.¹

September 7.—The Presbyterie conveened at Kemboke for the admission of Mr. Robert Glafford.

September 21.—The Presbyterie conveened at Carnbee for the admission of Mr. Andro Bruce to be minister ther.

December 15.—The Presbyterie conveened at Dininnow in order to Mr. John Barclay's admision to be minister ther.

December 28.—This day, a letter directed to the Moderator from my Lord Archbishop was read, intimating as followeth.

ABBY, December 28, 1664.

REVEREND BROTHER,

WHERAS we finde that Mrs. James McGill, Robert Weems, David Guthrie, Robert Bennett, Alexander Wedderburne do obstinately persist in ther way of separation from ther bretheren, and contempt of authoritie, and disobedience to the laws, to the great prejudice of the Gospell,

¹ He was deposed in January 1682 for not taking the Test oath.

and scandal of the orderly ministers therof ; therfore we shall desire yow to make intimation to each of them, that if they do not appear at the nixt meeting of the bretheren of the Exercise, which is to be holden at St. Andrews the 11th day of Januarie nixt, and then declaire that they are resolved thence forth to concurre with ther bretheren in the exercise of the word and discipline, and accordinglie give ther assistance as the law doth require in all ecclesiastical meetings for suppressing of sin and edification of the Church of Christ in godliness and unitie, they are to expect, that after all Christian means used for ther reclaiming, we will forbear no longer to cause execute the sentence of the diocesan Synode against them. We recommend yow and the bretheren to the spirit and grace of Jesus Christ, in whom I am

Your loving Brother,

ST. ANDREWS.

An copy of which, with a letter from the Moderator, was fent to each of the aboue named bretheren by George Nairne.

Aprile 26, 1665.—This day was delivered to the Moderator the execution of the sentence of the dioecfian Synode served att the Synodes command against the dissatified bretheren Mrs. James M'Gill, Robert Bennet, Robert Weems, Alexander Wedderburne, David Guthrie, which was red. They being absent as formerly, neither any report from them being made to the Presbyterie, ther places are vacand by the A&t of the Synode, and are so to be holden.

May 10.—In obedience to the A&t of the Synode annent the additional supplies for the Universties, these bretheren gave an account of quhat was ther modified stipends.

Mr. William Moore, minister of St. Andrews, 1200 merks ; payes 36 lib.

Mr. John Auchinlaik, of Newburne, 4 chalders vi&ual with 400 merks ; payes 24 lib.

Mr. John Middleton, Leuchars, 7 chalders vi&uall and an halfe, with 40 lib. ; payes 24 lib.

Mr. John Barclay, of Dininnow, five chalders vi&ual and 80 lib. ; payes . . .

Mr. George Patulo, Kingsbarns, 8 chalders vi&ual ; payes 24 lib.

Mr. Andro Bruce, Carnbee, 7 chalders vi&ual, 180 lib. ; payes 28 lib.

May 24.—These bretheren gave up the rentals of ther modified stipend :

Mr. James Rattary, St. Mennans, 6 chalders vi&ual with 200 merks ; payes 24 lib.

Mr. Alexander Edward, Crail, 10 chalders vi&ual ; payes 30 lib.

Kemboke stipend not being well known to the minister as yet, onely he thinks it to be four chalders viðual with an 100 lib.

Junij. 14.—Mr. Andrew Bruce junior admitted to the church of Kil-rinny.

All the bretheren obſerved the thankſgiving on May 29, and the fast on the 7th June. It was informed also, that the bretheren quho deny ther meeting with us, though they obſerved both, yet did not read the Proclamation.

Junij 28.—The bretheren are to consult quhat course is to be taken for cauſeing the ſtudents in the New Colledge ſtudy carefully the Hebrew toungue.

Julij 9.—The bretheren refolve, in order to make the ſtudents in the New Colledge ſtudy the Hebrew, that none of them ſhall be approven in ther tryalls quho cannot expound the firſt ten psalmes *ad aperturam libri*; and that the Rector give them notice therof the nixt publicque leſſone.

August 30.—This day, the Presbyterie mette at Forgane according to appointment, admitted Mr. John Alexander minifter ther.

September 28.—This day, the Presbyterie frequently mette for admiffion of Mr. Alexander Younge to be Archdeacone of St. Andrewes.¹

November 15.—*Acts of the Synode*.—The Lord Archbiſhop and Synode taking to ther conſideration that reference concerning Robert Small, and finding that the bretheren off Megill had done nothing in it, appoint that the bretheren off Dumfermline, and whoſoever elſe have any evidences off divination, or unlawfull means off healing off diſeases, or finding that which is loſed or ftollen, uſed by that man, that they ſend them to the bretheren off Megill betuixt this and the nixt Synode; as alſo, that the people who ſeek to him in theſe unlawfull wayes, be challenged and cenſured accordingle be ther own minifters.

Januar 30, 1666.—Mr. John Middeltoune having asked the bretherens advise about guizers in his paroch, is referred to the nixt day.

Mr. Robert Glafford having told the brethren that his ſchoolmaſter flatlie refused to obey the A&ts off the Synod anent reading and ſinging the

¹ He was minifter at Cramond.

Doxologie, and procuring a licence from my Lord Archbischop, the Presbyterie thought fitt he fuld be discharged of his office.

Februar 14.—Anent guizers in Mr. Johne Middeltones paroch, he is advised to proceed against them as scandalous persons; and iff they prove disobedient, to charge them before the Presbyterie.

March 14.—[Mr. William Ogilvey indu&t minister at Newburne.]

Aprile 11.—Mr. Andro Bruce, minister off Carnbie, having dilated Margret Guthrie in the said parosch for the finne off vitcheract, and having proceeded against hir in the Session of Carnbie, did give in the processe, which is referred to the afternoon.

Post meridiem.—That processe which was given in in the fornoon by Mr. Andro Bruce, minister of Carnbie, against Margret Guthrie, scandalous for many yeares for vitcheract, was read before the brethren, who fand in it a number of forceries and malefices made out against hir; and that notwithstanding of thes things made out against hir, she is obstinate. The brethren, because off the weightnes and difficultie off the matter, and the near approach off the diocesiane meeting, do referre the said processe to the Lord Archbischop and Synod.

May 2.—Act for the Hebrew.—For the stirring up of young men for the studieing of the Hebrew mor accuratlie, it is appointed, that whosoever shall not giv satiffa&tione in the Hebrew, in exponing anie of the first 30 psalmes *ad aperturam libri*, so much shall be signified in ther testimonies.

Guthrie suspect of Witchcraft.—Margret Guthrie suspect of witcheract in the parish of Carnbie, who was referred to my Lord Archbischop and Synod, being put in firmance befor the Synod by my Lord Kellie, at the desire of my Lord Archbischop, the reference was not medled with by the Synod, bot left to the Presbyterie: Therfor the Moderator, Mr. Alexander Edward, Mr. Androw Bruce at Carnbie, and Mr. Alexander Leslie, ar appointed to deal with hir at ther own conveniencie, for bringing hir to a confessione, till the judge competent should dispose of hir.

May 24.—[Mr. Robert White, transported from Inchture, admitted minister at Ferrie-parton-craig.]

June 13.—Small.—As concerning that reference relating to Robert

Small, the brethren appointed to conferre with him, Mr. Walter Bruce, Robert Honyman, Jon Auchenleck, and David Pattoun, reported, that by his own confessione they find him guiltie of drunkenes, of prevaricatione, and of pretending skill in divining wher stollen goodes ar to be found, although reallie he hath non, and of abusing the name of God in his papers given out for finding these stollen goodes; and findes him sensible of his finne, and forrie for it; promising, through the Lords strength, never to doe the lik againe. The Lord Archbisshop and Synod appoint that lie appeere befor som congregations within the Presbyterie of Megill, confess his fin, and profess his repentance for it, and ingage himself to doe no mor so; and that this be intimat to all the congregations within the Presbyterie; which the said Robert acquiesced to, and promised to doe whenever he should be appointed by the Presbyterie of Megill.

Inerkeithing.—The supplicatione of the magistrates and town counsell of the burgh of Inerkeithing, grounded upon the A&t of the Lordes of Privie Counsell, for a voluntarie contributione throuhout all the parishes of the dioceſs, for repairing of the ancient and usefull Herboſe of the ſaid burgh, was read, granted; and all the ministers within the dioceſs wer appointed to intimat the ſaid collectione, and gather the ſam att ther firſt conveniencie, and to deliver the ſam to ther reſpective Moderatores, that by them it may be tranſmitted to James Bennett, bailzie of the ſaid burgh, collector of the ſaid collectione.

Papiftes and Quakers.—If ther be anie perſones inclining to Poperie or Quakerifm, they ar to be dilated to the Lord Archbisshop, that a course may be taken with them.

Uniformitie.—Moderatores ar to take notice of the uniformitie of minifters in ther pra&tice of cauſing the Creed to be recited at baptism, and of ſinging the Doxologie, and of making uſe of the Lords prayer in publick.

Sabbath prophaneſd.—Wher the Sabbath is profand by men ryding upon that day, minifters ar to mak that knownen to the magistrates of that toun wher fuch horſe is hyred.

September 19.—Advice anent Witchcraft.—Mr. John Alexander askes the advice of the brethren what he ſhall doe with one Ifobell Key, in the parish of Forgon, ſuspect of witchcraft and malefices don by hir? The

brethren desires he may giv in all that can be said against hir in writ, against the nixt day, and then they will be mor clear in giving him ther advice.

October 1, 1667.—Quakers of Fetteresso.—The minister of Fetteresso is appointed to go on with the censour of the Kirk against the quakers within his paroch, that he cause eit them befor the Presbyterie and Sescion, and if they be not reclaim'd from ther errours that he proceed against them with the highest censurs of the Kirk in dew maner.

November 20.—[Mr. Paul Methven admitted minister at Danunow.]

Aprile 1, 1668.—The Lord Archbishop declaired, that he had kept a vistitation at Dumbfermling; that he had, upon good ground, deposed Mr. Robert Edmiston, minister at Culrofs; and as for Mr. Mathew Fleeming, his colleague, the Archbishop delayed to proceed against him, seing ther wer some hopes of gaining him; and for that end Mrs. Walter Bruce, William Persone, John Shaw, are appointed to tell him that he is noticed that he hes not joyned with hes brethren of the Presbyterie.

Anstruther Wester, May 13.—The which day, the Presbyterie conveened for the admision of Mr. David Taylour to be ministerie ther.

Gibb appointed to appear in Sackcloath at the Church doore.—Mr. James Ratteray declaired, that he had been dealing with Marion Gibb, according as he was appointed, and that he found her still dissembling. The brethren appoint that Mr. James cause her appear at the church doore in sackcloath on the Lords day, from the ringing of the seconf bell till prayer before sermon be ended, and that then she go to the place of publicque repentance, if peradventure she may be winne therby, and that she remove before prayer after sermon begin.¹

Camerone, June 24.—The which day, the Presbyterie conveened for the admision of Mr. James Williamfone to the ministerie ther.

June 30, 1669.—The which day, the Presbyterie conveened for admision of Mr. John Christifone to the ministrie att Kembock.

April 21.—Quakers.—The Lord Archbishop and Synod being informed that in Merns and in the parish of Fetteresso were kept severall conventicles by Quakers, who interrupted some ministers in the time of publicque

¹ She was accused of incest, which she afterwards confessed.

worship, and spoke reproachfully of ministers ; the ministers ther wer advised to be diligent in watching over ther flocks, and guarding them against these errors, and wait till a course be taken by the magistrate with these disorderly persons.¹

The Lord Archbishop and Synod taking to ther confideration the supplication of the magistrates and towne councell of the brugh of Kirkealdie for a collection to the building of the new harbour of the said brugh, which worke was interrupted through the trobles of the time ; they grant the said supplication, providing the petitioners finde security that quhat money is delivered to them shall be bestowed on the said work ; and appoint that all the ministers within the dioceſſ colle&t for the said end as soon as conveniently they may.

It is appointed, that no minister be absent from his charge two Sabbath dayes togither without leave from the Moderator, and that they give such an excuse of ther absence as shall be approuen ; withall ministers are to be carefull to provide for ther people quhen they are from home themſelue. The Moderators are to enquire, if all the ministers within ther bounds preach twise each Sabbath, and if they ordinarily keep home.

October 6.—The Archbiſhop and Synod think that the Parliament is to be spoken unto for ratifying of the old A&t for planting of schooles in each parish.

The Archbiſhop and Synod having a supplication from the towne of Couper presented before them, quherin they supplicate that a charitable contribution may be granted unto them throughout all the parish churches of the dioceſſ, in regard, that upon the . . . day of Aprile laſt, a fire broke out accidentally in the faid towne, about one after midnight, and diſtroyed about twentie conſiderable families, quite ruined ther whole houses, and brought the faid perſones to great ſtraits ; therfore, the faid petitioners, having obtained an A&t of his Majestieis Secreet Counſell, for a voluntary contribution to the ſupply of the faid perſons, throughout all the townes and parishes of the ſhires of Ffyffe, the three Lothians, Mers, Perth, and Angus ; The Lord Archbiſhop and Synod, conſidering the pre-

¹ “ *October 25, 1668. This day, Thomas Craigie and John Durrett were before the pulpit for hearing two of the Quakers sermons att Uriel, and were received.* ” — *Fetteresso Kirk Sess. Records.*

missis, appoint that a charitable contribution be collected throughout all the parish churches within the diocefs of St. Andrews, and that between this and Candlemais nixt, that collection be gone about and ended ; provyding alway, that the magistrates of Couper appoint faithfull and honest men to receive the same from the severall Moderators of the Presbyterie, (quho are to reeeive the same from the ministers,) and to see that the same be faithfully distribute to the persons damnified by that fire, at the sight of the magistrates and ministers, as they will be answerable to the Lordes of his Majestieis Secret Counsell.¹

May 11, 1670.—Shallit supplied.—This day, a supplication was presented to the Presbyterie by Paul Shallit, a converted Jew, wherein he desired the charitie of the brethren, in regard he was in mean condition, and minded forthwith to go into Ingland if he had aney thing to bear his expence. The Presbyterie granted him his desire, and gave him some supply.

April 13.—The A&t of Parliament in favours of the brugh of Dondie, for a voluntar contribution to them, for reparacion of ther herbour and great losf of shippes through the storme in October 1668, [being read,] the Archbishop and Synod resolve to take this to ther consideration, and to appoint a tyme for that collection.

October 5.—The Lord Archbishop and Synod, being informed that some persones go to the Border and marrie ther, contemning the order of the Church, judge that they shoule be delated to the civill magistrate, that they may be fined according to law, and that they be put to a publicque declaration of ther repentence, and be suspended from the saerament, for violating the order of the Church ; and that ministers be carefull to give in the names of such persons to the Synod att the nixt meeting, and quhat they have done in ther censure.

May 3, 1671.—The A&t of Parliament of the date 23d December 1669, appointing a contribution for the Incorporation of the Scotts att London, being read, the Archbishop and Synod ordaines, that this contribution be

¹ A similar supplication, which was also granted by the Synod, was presented the same day from the town of Kilmarnock, bearing, “ that quheras upon the 22 of May 1668, the whole towne was burnt unto ashes by a violent fire that accidentally broke out, and about 120 families were cast out of all habitation, and brought to poverty and beggery.”

intimate and gathered by all the ministers of the dioceſs, both in burgh and land, between this and the nixt Synod.

The ſupplication of the brugh of Dondee, Kilrynny, and St. Monance, for contributions to the repairing of ther harbours, are to be taken to conſideration in due time.

November 8.—The which day, the Presbyterie conveened in order to the admiſſion of Mr. John Wood to the miniftrie att Kilrinny.

Aprile 3, 1672.—[Mr. Andrew Auchinlaike admitted minister at Dinninow.]

December 4.—Iſbel Lyndſay rayling on my Lord St. Andrews.—Doctor Moor repreſented to the brethren, that Iſbell Lyndſay, ſpouse to John Wilſone in St. Andrews, who was banished the towne by the magiſtrats, for hir rayling againſt my Lord Archbiſhop in time of Gods publik worſhip, having returned ſome weeks agoe to the towne, and being connived at in hope of hir future good behaviour, yet notwithstanding, had the laſt Lords day faue one, uttered ſome reviling ſpeeches againſt the faid Archbiſhop and his Lady at his entry to his ſermon, to the great ſcandal of the congregation; and therfor was immediatly incarcerated by the magiſtrats.

The Presbyteries resolution theranent.—The brethring, ſeriously confiſdering the greatnes of the ſcandal, and the bad preparative and ill example therof, thought fitt to advise with his Grace anent ther duty in relation thereto, and refolved, to goe immediatly to the Abby on that effect, and to meett tomorrow.

December 5.—The Presbyterie appoint ſume to confer with hir.—The brethring being mett, and being left by the Archbiſhop to ther own prudence to act in that matter as they thought convenient, ſo that God might be glorified, and the ſcandal remoued, and the perfon broght to a ſenſe of hir guiltines, ordined the Moderator, the minifters of St. Andrews, St. Leonards, and Creil, to confer with hir in priſon, and to indeavour to bring hir to a ſenſe of hir fin; and to report the nixt day of our meitting, which is to be on the 1ſt of January nixt, in reſpeſt that Christmeſſ is this day twenty dayes.

January 1, 1673.—The Brethrens report anent Lyndſay.—The brethring appointed to confer with Iſbel Lyndſay, reported that ſhe was obſtinate,

and that the magistrats had resolued to infli&t civil punishment on hir, and banishe hir the toune ; wherfor, the brethring appointed Doctor Moor to labor to bring hir to conviction befor hir remouel ; and if she shuld sti& continue ob&stinate and malicious, to declare the haynousnes of hir sin befor the face of the congregation, and desire them not to be scandalized by hir wicked example, and that she was a person uncapable of discipline, and unworthy of christian society.

Kilconquer, 19 November.—[Mr William Hey admitted minister there.]

Kembok, 4 June 1674.—[Mr. George Landels admitted minister there.]

Forgan, 12 August.—[Mr. William Scot admitted minister there.¹]

October 27.—James Lodian, &c. sumond pro 3^{to}.—Anent James Lodian and his wife Elizabeth Key, and Helen Heggie, not only scandalous for keeping of Conventicles, and soliciting of others to the like disorderly practices, but also guilty of withdrawing themselfs from Gods publick worship eury Sabbath, and contempt both of the Word and sacrament of the Lords Supper, and of the publick ministery, both in doctrine and discipline, in that parish of Kingsbarns, and profanatione of the Lords day, now for a long time ; the minister declared, that the said James Lodian vas so far from acknowledging his finnes, or promiseing to waitte upone Gods publick worship, and receauing the sacrament as ane indispensable deuty, that he wold not suffer the word of exhortatione, but added this to his former fins in reviling the minister, and calling his doctrine rayling. Therfor, he had not only sumoned his wife, and Helen Heggie, and James Lodian, pro 2^o by his beddall, as was ordained, but further, they were appointed to be summond pro 3^o.

July 21, 1675.—This day, Dr. Edward reported, that thair was on Geilles Robertfone, in the toune of Craill, suspect of witchcraft, and imprisoned vpon that account ; and therfore desyred, that some of the brethren might be appointed to assist him in conferring with her. The brethren appoynt the Moderator, Mrs. Wood, Dauid Faleoner, Dauid Tailzeour, Johne Auchinlek.

August 18.—Anent Geillis Robertfone, the brethren that wer appoyntit to conferre with her, report, that they could gaine no confessioun from

¹ He died in October 1677.

her. Dr. Edward is appoynntit frequentlie to conferr with her during the tyme scho fould be keipt in prisone.

September 11.—Anent Geillis Robertfone, Dr. Edward reports, that thair is no appearance of her confessioun. The bretheren having considered her former confessiouns, quhairof they wer informed by Dr. Edward and utheris, and also these quo wer appoynted to conferre with her, hauing heard her owne daughter, and a fister of her sonne in law quo was sick, and imputed her sicknes vpon pregnant presumptiones to a malefice of hers; and that scho spok nothing that tended to the clearing of her self: The bretheren, finding that these were sufficient groundis for them, vnto quhom such a diewie belonged, to crave a commissioun for her tryall, apoynt Dr. Edward to desyre that the magistrats of the toune wold feik a commissioun for her tryall.

September 15.—Anent Geillis Robertfone, Dr. Edward reports, that in respect thair wer no actuall magistrats in Craill, thair was no course takin for obtaining a commissioun for her tryall. The bretheren thought that this was a duetie incumbent vpon the honnest men of the toune to feik a commissioun, as is the vse and custome in such caices quher ther is no magistrats; and therfore desyre Dr. Edward to putt her confessiounes *in mundo*, and delyver them to honnest men, who might carry them over the water, for obtaining a commissioun for her tryall.

September 29.—Anent Geillis Robertfone, Dr. Edward reports, that he had obeyed the Presbyteries ordour the last day *vt supra*.

December 27.—Anent Geilles Robertfone suspect of witchcraft, Dr. Edward, minister at Craill, reports that scho is now dead.

November 16, 1676.—Acts Synod.—The A&ts of the Synod being this day delyvered, the bretheren wer appointed to consider who wer the most notorious ringleaders in withdrawing from the publick ordinances in ther oun parish, and in procuring disorderly baptisms or mariage, that some few of them might be proceeded against to be a terror to the rest; and to give in ther names against the nixt day, in obedience to the A&t of the last Synod.

Pittenweem, July 19, 1677.—[Mr. Andrew Bruce transported to Pittenweem from Carnbee, on the death of Mr. Hamilton.]

November 14.—[Mr. Edward Thomfone admitted minister at Anstruther-Easter.]

Kingsbarns, January 3, 1678.—[Mr. Gilbert Symfone, minister at the Castle of Edinburgh, admitted to Kingsbarns.]

St. Fillance, January 16.—[Mr. Alexander Sharp, sometime minister in Ireland, indu&ted to St. Fillans.]

Cameron, January 30.—[Mr. Andrew Flooker admitted minister there, in room of Mr. James Williamfone.]

Ely, May 8.—[Mr. Alexander Wilson admitted minister there.]

Carnbee, September 16.—[Mr. James Gairns, minister at Balmirino, transported to Carnbee.]

St. Fillanee, September 25.—[Mr. James Strahan, Regent in the Old College, indu&ted to the ministerie of St. Fillans.]

St. Andrews, May 14, 1679.—The which day, the Presbitry mett heer but without any exercise or additione, in regard of the disorders and confusions all wer in, becaus of that horrid Murther committed upon the persone of my Lord Archbishop of St. Andrews.

Newburn, September 17.—[Mr. William Sym, minister of in Galloway, recommended by my Lord [Bisshop of] Edinburgh, vicar generall to the Sea of St. Androws, transported and admitted to Newburn.]

St. Andrews, October 29.—No Exercise.—The which day, the Presbitry mett in the Town Kirk, but without any publick exercise, in regard that Dr. Moor, who was appointed to have it, did yesterday preach by appointment from my Lord St. Andrews at the translatiion of the Archbishop of Glasgou to the Archbischoprick of St. Andreus, and consecration of the Bishop of Argil. He is again appointed to have the exercise, and Doctor Falconer the additione.

September 1, 1680.—Duncan, scolder.—Mr. Andreu Auchinleck reports, that in his parochin of Dinninou, ther is on Cathrin Duncan guilty of scolding and abusing hir nighbours, who refuses to give satiffa&tione befor his congregation for the same. She is appointed to be summond against the nixt day.

*September 15.—Anent Catharin Duncan *ut supra*, Mr. Andreu Auchinleck reports, that nou she hath given satiffa&tione, by acknoledging hir crim befor the congregatiōne at Dininnou.*

Carnbee, April 27, 1681.—The which day, the Presbitry mett heer in order to the admiffion of Mr. Alexander Lundie, late minister at Oruel.

November 16.—This day, the Archdeacon, Moderator of the Presbitry, produced to the brethren a commiffion he had receaved at Edinburgh, of the date November 8 instant, from the most reverend Father in God my Lord Archbishop of St. Andreus, his Grace impouring him to administer the Oath and Test appointed by the current Parliament to the severall brethren of this Presbitry; which was publickly read in ther audience. He produced also the express fens wherin the clargie of this kingdome ar appointed and alloued, by his Royall Highnes and the Lords of his Majesties most honorable Privie Counsell, to tak the faid Oath and Test. This a&t for explaining of the Test to be takin by the clargie, being publickly read in the hearing of the brethren, and maturly considered by them, they did all unanimously agree and consent to give obedience to the law, in swearing and subcribing the said Oath and Test in the fens above exprefte, and that on the 23 day of this instant; on which day they appointed to assemble themselvs, at ther ordinary meeting place in St. Andrews, *in hunc effectum.*

January 4, 1682.—The Archdeacone produced a letter from my Lord Archbishop of St. Andrews, allowing him to receave unto the communion of this church Mr. James Canneris,¹ who had apostatized to the popish religion some years agoe, and was now earnestly desyrous to make profefion of his repentance, and to be readmitted to the fellowship of his mothers church; this order from my Lord Archbishop careing exprefly in it, that his reception should be performed solemly, and with the advice of the brethren in this Presbitry. Accordingly, the Archdeacone having propounded the matter to them, they unanimously agreed that he shoule be receaved publickly in the church of St. Andrews before the congregation,

¹ In 1684 James Canaries published a volume, at Edinburgh, entitled, “A Discourse representing the sufficient Manifestation of the Will of God to his Church in all its several Periods and Dispensations.” 12mo. pp. 296. It is dedicated to the Chancellor, Earl of Perth. The author alludes to his still lying “at the Pool of Preferment;” and says, “my circumstances are such as make me yet depend upon the World for my fortune in it.” Next year, however, he printed “A Sermon, preacht at Selkirk, upon the 29 of May 1685,” in which he styles himself “Minister of the Gospel there.”

on the 25 of this instant, which is the nixt meeting of the Presbiry, and that intimation be made therof to the people from the pulpit the Lords day immediatly preceeding ; which was accordingly done.

St. Andrews, Januar 25.—This day, the brethren being frequently con-
vinced, Mr. James Canneris was receaved in this maner following :—

The whole brethren of the Presbiry were set at a table before the pulpet, and the penitent in a chear behind them ; then the Archdeacone went up to Readers dask, and, after calling upon the name of God, he discoursd concerning the occasion of that meiting, and gave the reas ons vherfor it was thought fitt that this busenes should be transacted publikly ; and also represented to the people briefly the manifold advantages which the Protestant Religion hath of Popry, the Protestant faith being a religion more ancient, more pure, more peacable, and more reasonable then that of Rome.

Then the Archdeacone calld up the penitent from his seat to stand by him, that he might be the better heard and seen of the people : Where the penitent discoursed at great lenght of the temptations he was under to make defection to Popry, and of the motives, convictions, and inducements that made him, after some time, naufeat that religion, and earnestly desire that he might have occasion to renunce it, and embrace and pro-
fesse again the orthodox religion of Protestants ; both which he did pub-
likly and at large at this time.

After which, the Archdeacone required him to goe down to his former place, and ther, upon his knees, to creave pardon of God for his apostasie, and for the offence and scandle he hath given therby to this reformed church, and to bege earnestly that he might be readmitted unto its communion and fellowship ; which he accordingly did.

Then the Archdeacone calld all the Doctors and Prisbyters present by name, to give their opinion and judgment concerning what they had heard from him, and to declare their mind, whither they thought he might be receaved upon this profession of repentance unto the bosome of this Church; unto which all of thame unanimously agreed. The Archdeacone also calld to the whole people then assembled, that if they had any thing to object against the penitents reception, they might presently declare the same.

But none of thame ofred to make any opposition ; and therefore the Archdeacone proceeded, and, with the consent of his brethren, admitted him to the fellowship of this Church, and in testimonie therof did take him by the hand, as also the rest of the brethren did.

Then the Archdeacone solemnly obtefted and charged him in the preſence of God, angells, and men, that he ſhould never declam [decline ?] again unto the Popiſh erroreſ and ſuperſtitioſ, which he had now ſolemly renouneſ ; and he made him pūblikly pomeſe, with upleauſted hand, that he ſhould perſiſt all the days of his life in the trew reformed Protestant Religion as it is at preſent eſtabliſhed by law in its doctrine, discipline, and governement in this Churc̄h and Kingdome, and that he ſhould adorne the fame with a holy life and conuerſation. Then the Archdeacone cloſed the action with prayer, and diſmiff'd the people with the bliſſing.

Kemback, Februar 22.—The Presbiry mett here for the admiſſion of Mr. Alexander Edward to be minifter at this place.

March 22.—The Archdeacone produced to the brethren a recommendation from my Lord St. Andrews in favours of a Grecian gentleman called Franſefco Pollani, who hath two brothers and a ſister in miſerable bondage at Tripoli, that they might, in order to their relief, gather a voluntary contriбуtion in their fevall congregations ; which they undertook to doe.

St. Monance, May 24.—[Mr. Andrew Burnet admitted minifter there.]

Newburne, Auguſt 16.—[Mr. Andrew Youngſone induc'ted minifter here.]

September 13.—The colle&tion for the peer of Bruntisland, and the bridge of Dumbartowne, was again recommended to the brethren.

Carnbie, May 23, 1683.—[Mr. John Falconer admitted minifter there.]

Kilconquhar, Sept. 24, 1684.—[Mr. Alexander Hay admitted minifter.]

Carraill, October 22.—[Mr. Alexander Leslie, minifter at Cyres, tranſlated to Craill.]

Newburn, September 16, 1685.—[Mr. James Hay admitted minifter.]

Anſtruther Easter, Auguſt 5, 1686.—[Mr. William Moncrieff admitted minifter.]

St. Andrews, November 9.—[Mr. John Wood admitted minifter.]

ATT ST. ANDREWS, APRIL 18, 1693.

The Provinciall Synod of Fife met at Dumfermline, takeing unto their consideration, that there are now a competent number of ministers in each of the tuo Presbitries of St. Andrews and Cupar, who formerlie were united in one Presbitrie, and that both the Presbitries were desireous to be disjoyned again, and to a&t separatlie by themselves, did, by their a&t, bearing the date the fixt of April I^mvj^c and nintie three years, disjoyn the said Presbitries. As also, by the said a&t they appointed the first diet of the meeting of the bretheren in the Presbitrie of St. Andreus to be at St. Andreus upon the eighteen day of this present moneth of April; as the said a&t at more length beares. And they, being mett accordinglie, did make choise of Mr. Thomas Forrester to be their Moderator for this seafon, and of Mr. Hugh Kemp to be Clerk.

After prayer. Sederunt. Mr. Thomas Forrester, Moderator, Mr. Alexander Pitcairn, Provest of the Old Colledg, Mr. William Tullidaff, Princeipall of St. Leonards Colledg, Mr. James Drummond, Mr. William Wardrop, Mr. John Arthur, Mr. Walter Wilfon, Mr. William Hardie, Mr. Hugh Kemp, Cts. Elders, the Laird of Grangmure, William Jack, bailie in St. Andreus.

May 2.—Mr. Wood deposed.—This day, the execution of the last summonds given to Mr. William Wood, late incumbent at Deninnow, was presented to the Presbitrie; and they haveing eauf'd call him three severall times, at the most patent church door, he compeared not, nor anie in his name; upon which the Presbitrie, for his contumacie, did depose him *simpliciter* from the exercise of his ministrie.

June 7.—The bretheren of the Presbitrie of Cupar, for the most part, were all present here, to consult with this Presbitrie anent the takeing of the Oath of Alleadgance and subscryving the Assurance to their Majesties King William and Queen Mary, imposed by authoritie upon all the ministers within this kingdom. But they left the final determination of this affair to the more generall meeting of the bretheren within the bounds of the Synod, which is shorlie to be kept at Kirkecaldie.

October 5.—[Mr. Robert Fairweather ordained minister at Carnbee.]

August 1, 1694.—Reference to the Synod anent the goeing of Salt panns.— Mr. Patrick Coupar informing the Presbitrie of the great abuse committed on the Lords day by the goeing of Salt panns in the toune of Pittenweem, and craveing their advice herein ; and they confidering that this abuse is not onlie peculiar to that place, but generall through many parts of Fyfe, they thought fitt to referr it to the Synod for advice, that so a joynt course may be followed for suppreffing these abuses.

Cameron, December 13.—[Mr. John Olyphant admitted minister there.]

Anstruther-Wester, May 1, 1695.—[Mr. Thomas Black inducted minister there.]

Leuchars, Julie 3.—[Mr. George Gordon admitted minister there.]

October 30.—Affair anent Beatrix Laing delayed.— The Presbytrie having heard a proposal from Mr. Patrick Coupar for advice anent a scandal, tabled before their Session, against one Beatrix Laing, concerning a charm used by her, and finding the matter weightie, and they so straitened with time, the confederation of it is referred to the next dyet.

Februar 26, 1696.—[Mr. George Hamilton, minister at Newburn, translated to the parish of St. Leonards,¹ and made Principal of St. Leonards College.]

Petition James Tod.— The Presbitrie takeing into their confederation a petition given in by James Tod, desiring that they would take notice of a charm used against his son, by Beatrix Laing in the towne of Pittenweem, They appoint Mr. William Hardie, Mr. Walter Wilson, Mr. James Drummond, and Mr. Robert Fairweather, to meet at Pittenweem on Weddensday next with the Session there, and to continue their diets, as they shall find cause, for making search and inquirie in that affair ; and to doe everie thing that shall be found necessarie for getting clearnes therin, and to report the next diet.

April 1.—Report anent David Tod, &c.— As to the affair relating to

¹ Mr. Hamilton, as minister of Newburn, was ousted on the restoration of Episcopacy in 1661, and appears to have resided in London till he was called by the Presbytery in January 1694 to resume his charge. He resigned the principality and ministry of St. Leonards in November 1696 ; and was transported to Edinburgh in 1697.

charms in the toun of Pittenweem, Mr. Patrick Coupar, minister there, reports, that the bretheren, according to the Presbitries order, did meet there, and made inquirie into it, and that David Tod, the partie pursueing, did faile in his probation laid in against Beatrix Laing, whom he pursueing for useing a charm against his son. This report being considered by the Presbitrie, they found that they could proceed no further in it at the time.

Julie 22.—[Mr. Robert Cleiland admitted minister at Newburn.]

May 4, 1697.—[Mr. Patrick Tullideph ordained minister at Ferrie-portoun-craig.]

Julie 7.—Likewise, the said Mr. Thomas Forrester, desired the advice of the Presbitrie, what he shoulde doe in censuring some persons who were convict before the magistrat of theft, and restetting of stoln goods, and were accordinglie punished by them. In ansuer to which, they advise that they be called before the congregation, and there openlie rebuked for their sin.

September 1.—[Mr. John Anderson, minister at Leslie, transported to St. Leonards, and appointed Principal of St. Leonards College.]

September 2.—[Mr. James Knox admitted minister at Deninnow.]

September 15.—[Mr. Alexander Shields ordained minister at St. Andrews.]

*March 16, 1698.—Anent the Centesima.—*The Presbitrie confidering, that by ane A&T of the last Synod held at Kirkcaldie, it is recommended to the respetive Presbitries to choose a collector for gathering the Centesima of ministers stipends to be bestowed upon the widows of deceased ministers or their children ; and being ignorant of what other Presbitries have done in this affair, therefore they judged it fitt to delay this till after the next Synod, that it may be known what steps other Presbitries have taken in this affair, that so they may take such measures as they shall find most convenient.

*Anent Archibald Reddie.—*The Presbitrie takeing the affair of Archibald Reddie, (a person proceff'd, for useing charmes in administering cures to sick persones and cattal, before the Synod), into their consideration, and finding, that it is recommended by the last Synod to ministers to inquire

what of that nature hath been done by him in their particular charges, according to what information they can hear of this matter; and the bretheren being asked if they had any information to give in against him; Mr. Patrick Coupar gave in ane information in write, as it was declared before the Seffion of Pittenweem; as also, Mr. Thomas Black gave in another as it was declaired before the Seffion of Anstruther Wester. Both which papers are to be given in by the clerk to the Synod when it meets. And the Presbitrie appoints the rest of the bretheren who can have any information from their Seffions concerning the faid Archibald Reddie his useing of charms in his giveing of cures, to have them in readiness against the Synods meeting, that all may be presented together.

March 16.—Anent a Woman repute a Soothsayer.—The Presbitrie taking into their consideration, that it was remitted to them by the last Synod to raise a proces against a woman in the parish of St. Andreus, who is reputed to be a soothsayer, and to proceed against her as they shoule fie cause. And now, being informed that she is gone out of the bounds, they know not whether, they find that they can doe nothing in this affair.

May 4.—Anent the Woman reput a Soothsayer.—The Presbitrie having informed the Synod, that the woman delated for a soothsayer in St. Andreus parish is now gone out of the bounds, and that it is not known whether: Upon which it was recommended to all the bretheren within the bounds of the Synod, that if she could be found out in anie of their respective congregations, to cause apprehend her, and to send her back to St. Andreus, that so she might be made to ansuer before this Presbitry for what is charged against her.

August 10.—Supplies.—Mr. Sheilds reports, that he had occasion to speake with Mr. William Dunlop, Principal of the Colledge of Glasgow, and with Mr. James Broune, minister there, who told him, that they have no young men at present to spare, either to this or anie other Presbitrie.

Report anent the Soothsayer.—As to that woman who lived once in the parish of St. Andreus, and reputed to be a soothsayer, Mr. John Olyphant reports, that latelie he had a letter from Mr. James Broun, minister in Glasgow, shewing that she was in their bounds, and when challenged, pro-

duced a testimonial, which she said was granted to her by the Session of Cameron, and that he desired to know if the Session of Cameron had granted that testimonial. The said Mr. Olyphant reports also, that he wrote back a letter to Mr. Broun, shewing in what circumstances she was in with this Presbitrie, and that she had feigned that testimonial. The Presbitrie having heard and considered the said report, they found they could proceed no further in this affair at the time.

September 21.—Anent Archibald Reddie.—This day, was presented and read a minut of the last Synod concerning Archibald Reddie, which is as follows :

AT THE ST. ANDREWS, 6 APRIL 1698, hora 3^{ia} post meridiem.

Anent Archibald Reddie, under process before the Synod for charming, &c., this Provinciall Synod appoints the ministers within their respective bounds, to give publick intimations from their pulpits, for all the people to forbear consulting him, under the paine of incurring severe censure, and that he shall find cautione to the Presbitrie of Kirkcaldie at their next meeting, to answer their disciplin. As also, the Synod appoints that the personnes who have already employed him within the bounds of the Synod, shall be censured, as the respective Sessions shall see fitt. This voted and approven, he was summoned *apud acta* to compear before the Presbitrie of Kirkcaldie at their next meeting ; and in face of the Synod, the said Archibald Reddie promised to forbear anie future practiseing in his former sinfull wayes for the time to come.

Sic subscribitur,

WILL. MACKY, Cl. Syn.

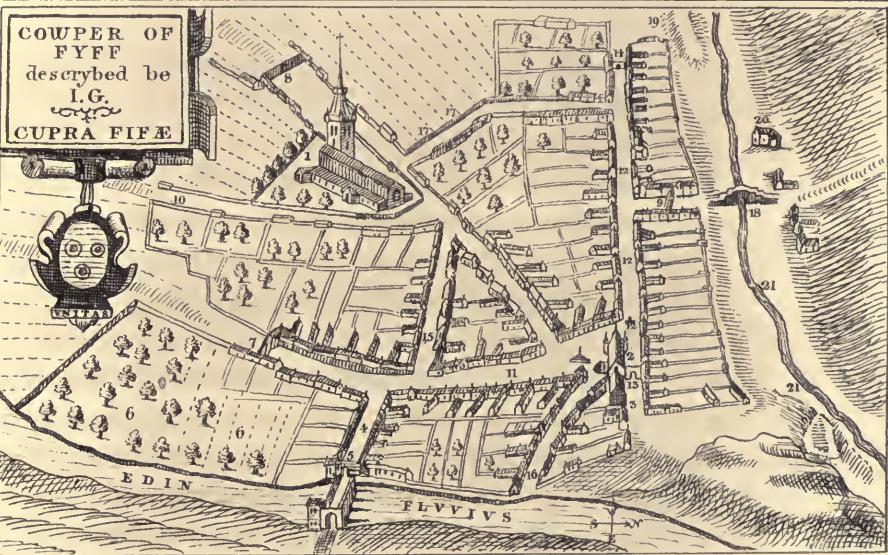
Which being considered by the Presbitrie, they did, and hereby doe recommend it to the bretheren, to give obedience to the said A&t, in so farr as it concernes them.

Anent the goeing of salt pans on the Lords day.—The Presbitrie being informed, that it will be verie needfull, in order to the suppreffing the profanation of the Lords day, by the goeing of salt panns, that the Synod would address the Justices of peace to interpose their authoritie for the said effect. Therefore, they referr this affair to the Synod, for their concurrence herein.

October 5.—[Mr. John Wood, minister at Kilrinnie, dimitted his ministry.]

THE PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR,

1646-1660.



1. The Church
2. Tolborth
3. The Castell
4. Bridge Wynd
5. Bridge Port
6. The Barony
7. The Mill Port.

8. The Kirkgate Port
9. Lady Port & Wynd
10. Ashler gate Street
11. Crof's Street
12. 12. Bonny gate Street
13. East Port
14. West Port

15. Short Wynde
16. Bober Wynde
17. Provosts Wynde
18. Lady Bridge
19. Mute Hill
20. Well Tower
21. 21. Lady Burne.

THE PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR.

Συν Θεῷ.

THE MEITINGS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE PRESBYTERIE OF CUPER SINCE THE LAST PROVINCIALL ASSEMBLYE HOLDEN AT CUPER OCTOBER 6, 1646.

October 22, 1646.—The brether wer ordained to keip the fast, indichted by the Provinciall Assemblye to be keipt throughout the whole province, the nixt Thursday, the 29 of October instant, the cawses being the same that wer of the laitte former fast, the plague of pestilence, the rageing enemies in Argyle preassling to establishe papistrie there.

Mr. David Dalgleishe declared, that Mr. Walter Greig and he gave in the names of those suspe&t of compleyancie with the enemies, to the Syndonal Assemblye, and, being authorized by them, gave them in to the Committie of the Shyre.

Mr. George Thomfone, minister at Kilmanie, representing to the Presbyterie that ther was no mantainance in ther paroche for a schoole, defyred the brethers advise and affistance for helpeing of it: The breither tooke it to confideratione whil the nixt day.

November 5.—Concerning the persons in the paroche of Cupar suspe&t of compleyancie with the enemie, viz. Sir James Sibbald of Rankilour, James Clephan, and James Baxter, who wer summond to compeir this day; and compeiring, the Moderator asked Mr. David Dalgleishe, What

was the ground quherupon the said Mr. David defyrd them to be summond? who ansering, declared, that he was informed be the Seffione of Cupar, that the Gordons wer in Sir James Sibbald of Rankilour his howse; that he was lykewayes informed by the said Seffion, that James Clephan convoyed thame to Forfar, and, as he was informed, it was to feike a discharge of the monye given be the Towne of Cuper to the saids Rebels; that he was lykwayes informed, that James Baxter was in companie with James Grhame, being in the Laird of Park his service in Buchanan.

Sir James Sibbald of Rankilour being examined, confessed, they came to his howse, and wer in his howse against his will; and said, he was not able to hold them owt, nor to eschew them.

James Clephan, being asked, declared, he was sent by David Robertfone, dean of guild in Cuper, David Robertfone bailzie, and David Robertfone, fone to David Robertfone dean of guild, to follow them to get a discharge for the monyes given to the Gordones be the Towne of Cuper. James Clephan was summond *apud acta* to compeir the nixt Thurfeday.

Mr. Alexander Balfoure, haveing formarlie acquainted the Presbyterie with that prote&tione whiche the Laidie of Aytoune had received, made report, that the Laidie had most humblie, in the face of the congregacione, testified hir repentance, conforme to the ordinance of the Generall Assemblye.

November 26.—Jonet and Marie Mitchells, in the paroche of Kilmanie, scandered of witcheircraft by occasione of someting spoken be Griffell Thomfone, who was brunt for witcheircraft, did sup�icat the Presbyterie to have the said felander tryed. Quherupon the Presbyterie defyred that Griffall Thomfone hir delatione concerning the said Jonet and Marie Mitchells shold be sought from the clerk of the proces, and presented the nixt day.

December 17.—Rankilor Sibbald elder, compeiring, and being asked anent the new refetting of Newtongordone, declared, that the reasoun was becaus he had Middletonis passe: The said Rankilor elder was summond *apud acta* against the nixt day.

December 31.—The quhilk day, the bretheren haveing confidered the whole proces concerning Rankilor Sibbald elder, althoughe they doe not

find him to come under anye of the classes of complyencie with the rebels expreſt in the A&t of the Generall Assemblye; yet becaus, throughe the rebels being a night in his howſe at that time when they went throughe the fyre of Fyſſe, they find that ther is a pregnant ſclander concerning him taking impreſſione in the heartes of manye, as iff he had reallie complyed with them in ther wicked cowrſes; therfor, they think it meit, and ordaine, for removeing of the faid ſclander, that the faid Rankilor Sibbald elder, the nixt Sabbathe day, publi&lie in the Congregatione, after fermonē befor the bliſſing, ſtand up in his owin ſeat, and declare that he hath bein alwayes free of complying with them in ther cowrſes of rebellionone; and that ther being in his howſe, was without anye invitatione or allowance upon his part, and altogether againſt his will and defyr, he not being able in that exigent either to eſchew them or hinder them: And appoints Mr. David Dalgleishe to report his carriage in that matter to the Presbyterie the nixt Thurfday.

Ther was received this day, ane letter ſent from the Commiffione of the Generall Assemblye, ſhewing that they had emitted ane Warning, quherof nynteen copies wer received and given to the severall bretheren of our Presbyterie to reade and explaine, according to the A&t printed therwithe, and that in ther ſeveral kirks on Sonday nixt; pryce being 12 ſ.; defyring lykewayes, to ſend to James Murray the pryces of the acts of the laſt Assemblye, Cawfes of the Faſt, and his tuentie ſhillings for this preſent yeir; as alſo, the pryces of the Declaratione and Proclamatione againſt Seafort, and Cawfes of the Faſt, pryce 4 ſ.: As alſo, declaring that James Ogylvie, ſone to ſometymes Earle of Airlie, was relaxed in the Eaſt Kirk of Edinburghe from the ſentence of excommunicatione; defyring the fame to be intimat, in the ſeveral paroche kirks within this Presbyterie owt of pulpите be the miſtir, the nixt Sabbathe.

Received alſo ane other letter from the faid Commiffione, recommending to the charitie of the bretheren Mr. James Kirk, miſtir of Dunblane, who had his howfes, cornes, bookeſ, and whole goods brunt and deſtroyed, himſelfe, his wyffe, and ſeven young children ſpoiled of all means of lyveliehood; quhilk they tooke to conſideratione whil the nixt day.

Anent the women, Jonet and Marie Mitchels in Kilmenie, ſcandered of

witcheraft, by reasoun of something that Griffall Thomfone had spoken anent them, Mr. George Thomfone reports, that he had spoken of that matter in the Commiffione of the Kirk, and that ther opinion was, that it was verie hard to keip young weomen under felander, and to marre ther fortune in the world, and debar them from the benefite of the Kirk, quher ther is nothing but the delatione of one witche, without anye felander befor, or anye other pregnant presumptione before or sincee. Quherfor the Presbyterie did appoint the said Mr. George to call befor him publi&lie in the congregatiōne the said Jonet and Marie Mitchels, and to intimat to the congregatiōne how that, after all tryelle used, nothing was found against them saffe onlye that quhilk that wretche spak, and how cruell a thing it was, upon so weake a grounde, to keip them under so foul a felander; and that he should charge them publi&lie, that iff they knew anye other thing against the saidis persons whiche might be anye presumptione of ther being guiltie of that wickednes, they wold declare it befor the nixt Lords day; and that iff none shold laye anye other thing to ther charge befor that day, that then they shold the nixt Lords day be declared free of that felander, and not anye more be debard from the benefite of the Kirk.

Januarij 7, 1647.—Mr. David Dalgleishe declared that the Seffion of Cupar was fullie satiffiged with Sir James Sibbald of Rankilor his declaraſon the laſt Sabbathe; quherto the brether acquiesced.

David Barclay fil contumacious and disobedient to the Seffion of Creiche, the brether fent for ane bailzie, who compeirng was defyred to put him in firmance, and hold him in firmance, untill, upon cautione, he shold promise to satiffige the Kirk Seffion of Creiche.

Januarij 14.—The brether received ane letter from the Commiffione of the Kirk, together with twentie copies of ane A&T Letter for a supplie to be collected in the feveral paroches for the distressed people of Argyle.

Januarij 21.—David Barclay, in the paroche of Creiche, compeirng, was enjoyned to make his repentance befor the pulpite in the kirk of Creiche on Sabbathe, for the breiche of the Sabbathe in thressing corne, and ane other for his obstinacie and rebellioun; as also ordained to pay a dolor of penaltie.

February 4.—Sir David Sibbald compeirring, and being asked anent his complyencie with the enemie, declared, that they wer in his hows against his will ; and being asked iff he prayed for them, denyed that he did pray for them. The brether being informed that the Laird of Forther, Carfloggie elder, Bagrigge, and James Clephan, wer in his howse at that tyme, appointed them to be summond against the nixt Thurfday, to compear and declare to the Presbyterie how the faid Sir David Sibbald behaved himselfe in the compagnie of the saidis Rebels.

February 18.—This day compeired Sir David Sibbald, as also the Laird of Forther and Bagriggrie, as witnesses, to declare what they knew in the matter anent the faid Sir David his complyencie with the enemie ; and the faid Sir David being asked, whither he did except anye thing against the saidis gentlemen as witnesses, anfered, he did except nothing against them ; quherupon the saidis two witnesses being requyred, upon ther oathe, to declare what they knew in the said matter, declared as followes :

The Laird of Forther being questioned, declared, he did not hear the faid Sir David pray for the enemie ; and being asked iff ther wer anye healthes drucken, declared, that he saw none drucken but the Kings healthe ; with all declaring, that the faid Sir David did entertainie the saids rebels verie kyndlie, and that they were welcome to him, and that in a jeaſting way he faid, “ This is the day quheron ye ſhould have bein at the Comittie.”

Bagriggrie declared, he hard him not pray for the enemies ; that ther was no healthe drucken but the Kings healthe ; and that Sir David was verie violent againſt the Laird of Forther, declaring to the rebels, that the Laird of Forther was the greateſt enemie in the Comittie that he hadde, defyng the saids rebels to take a revenge of him for it.

The A&t anent pennie brythels was delayed till the Provinciall Assemblye while the matter ſhould be more ryplie advised there.

This day David Barclay, portioner of Lithrie, compeired, ſhewing that he had brought owt of Lawthean Beſſie Couper and hir daughter, bothe ſuſpet of witcheſcraft, craveing the advise of the brether what he ſhould doe with them. The brether did advise the faid David to keip them untill Soneday nixt, and preſent them to the Seſſion of Creiche.

February 25, 1647.—Mr. Johne Ramsay and Mr. Johne Littlejohne, were appointed to speak to my Lord Anandell at his first comeing home owt of Edinburghe, and aske his Lordship whither he had satisfied the Kirk for his complyencie with the enemie or not, and to report to the Presbyterie.

Mr. Walter Greig declared, that he spake to Kingask anent the remov-
eing of the monuments of superstitione in the kirk of Darsie, who said to
him that he was attending Sir George Morison his homecoming from
Edinburghe.

Mr. Johne Makgil elder, Mr. Walter Greig, and Mr. Andrew Bennett,
ar appointed to speake to Beffie Couper, and trye iff they could have anye
confessione of her concerning witcheraft.

Marche 4.—The brether haveing diverse tymes conveined Sir David Sibbald befor them, and haveing made diligent searche of the degree of his delinquencie of the complying with the commone Enemies, have found, partlie by witnessses and more fullie by his owin confessione, that he did receive some of them to his howse and entertainied them too kyndlie; quhilk the said Sir David this day acknowledged befor us, wiffing he had rather quat his countrye nor bein so familiar withe them, and humblye submitting himselfe to our censure. All quhilk being taken to our serious consideratione, we decerned, lykas be these prefests we doe decerne, according to the A&t of the laite Generall Assemblye, he being in the seconcl classe of these delinquents, that he shal make confessione of the said oversight, and shew his serious repentance therfor publi&lie befor the pulpite of the kirk of Moniemell, the nixt Sabbatthe immediatlye following; upon the quhilk repentance he shalbe received be the minister.

Mr. Johne Makgill elder, and Mr. Walter Greig, that were appointed to speake to Beffie Couper, suspect of witcheraft, declared, they spake to hir, but she confessed nothing to them. The brether appointed Mr. Alexander Balfour, Mr. Johne Makgill younger, and Rankilor Makgill younger, to speak to the Magistrats of Cupar for ane ward howse quherin she might be keipt till farder tryelle.

The ingathering of the colle&tione for the supplie of the people of Argyle
is delayed, by reasone the people ar burdained with quartering of fogers
now goeing to the Noarthe, and also of the Monthlie mantinance.

Marche 11.—Concerning Sir David Sibbald his satiffactione according to the ordinance the day preceeding, it is found, that he had no wife satiffied the ordinance of the Presbyterie, becaus neither his confessione was full as it had bein in the Presbyterie the day befor, neither had he humbled himselfe upon his knees; his expressione was fuche as the commone people could not understand; he had his pistols about his fyde, and went foorth befor the blissing immediatlie after the minister had ceassed to speak to him; and becaus, compeiring, he is found not sensible of his miscarriages, he is summoned *apud acta* to compear the nixt day.

The matter concerning Beffie Cupar, slandered for withecraft in the paroche of Creiche, is delayed untill Mr. Andrew Bennett his returne from Edinburghe.

Quheras, it is reported by Mr. Lawrence Olyphant, minister at Newburghe, that most paert of the elders and inhabitants of the paroche of Neuburghe, had conversed withe Andrew Anderfone, who was excommunicate three yeir fince in the said paroche; the Presbyterie being deeplie affected withe the said miscarriage, and considering how muche of that kynd abounds in the land, whilas so manye ar excommunicate, doe refer the matter to the confideratione of the Provinciall Assemblye, that a solide cowrse may be taken, bothe for punishing this so haynous ane offence, and for preventing the lyke in tyme comeing; and discharges Mr. Lawrence to give the Communion whil the Provinciall be past.

The Presbyterie received a letter from the Commissione of the Kirk, appointing a fast to be keipt the first Sabbathe of Appryle, for the successe of the expeditione to the Noarthe, and for the other causes of humiliatione that ar up and downe the land; and for defyring the Members of the Commissione of the Kirk to repair to Abirdaine the second Wedenday of Maij; whiche was red and recommendet to the brether.

March 18.—The quhilk day, the brether, taking to ther confideratione the report made be Mr. David Orme of the deficiencie of Sir David Sibbald's declaracione of repentance in findrie points at the Kirk of Moniemel, doe heirby ordaine him to mak declaracione also of his repentance in the Kirk of Cult this nixt Sabbathe, in a humble manner upon his knees befor the pulpite, for all his former miscarriages.

The quhilk day, David Veitche compeiring, and confessing his being with the enemie at Kilsyth and Philiphaughie, the brether, conforme to the A&t of the Generall Assemblye, ordained him in a humble manner upon his knees to confesse his fault, and declare his repentance in a humble manner upon his knees befor the Presbyterie ; quhilk he performed : And also ordained him to compear befor the pulpite of the kirk of Darsie this nixt Sabbath to doe the lyk, according to the A&t of the Generall Assemblye.

Mr. Andrew Bennett and Mr. Walter Greig wer appointed to speak Mr. Thomas Melvin at the Synod, for planting of the schoole of Moniemell.

April 1.—Bessie Cupar in the paroche of Lithrie, suspect of witcheircraft, is referd to be advised with the Provinciall Assemblye ; as also the caice of sindrie others lying under the scandal of witcheircraft, and not yet cleared.

It is referred to the Assemblye to advise concerning the ecclesiastick censure to be inflicted in this caice, wher tuo young men have, for the space of three quarters of a yeir, layin in harlotrie with one woman, bothe of them having hir at once *successivè* upon all occasions of purpose, as the woman thought hirselfe that she might not conceive with the childe.

This day, the bretheren taking to ther consideracione the estate and conditione of the great benefices, owt of the quhilk they have there assig-nations, and fra quhilk should arise the maintinance of the fabrick of the Kirks and kirk dykes, and also furniture for the Communione Elements to be ministred four tymes in the yeir ; and that [it] was expedient thir things should be assured to the Kirks in tyme, They have referred this whole matter to the consideracione of the Synodal Assemblye nixt ensweing ; as also, to have there advise and concurrence anent the setling of gleibs and manfes, and the setling of viccarage dweties.

Aprile 15.—James Wilkie his censure.—James Wilkie in the parish of Culleffie, called and compeiring, the brether takeing to ther consideracione the greatness of his fault, (he being ane elder,) in breakeing of the Sabbath day, and labouring to cover the said fine by the testimonie of other men ; as also, till affront both the Sessions of Monymail and Culleffie, ordained [him] firſt to appear befor the Sessione of Culleffie the next Sabbath day,

and humblie vpon his knees to acknowledge his fault in the abuse and contempt of that Judicatorie ; and immediateli therafter to be deposed from his eldershipe be the Seffione, and the depositione to be intimate the Sabbath following ; the quhilk day, he shall humblie acknowledge vpon his knees his great fine in contemneing the Kirk Judicatories ; and the Sabbath after that, he fall publi&lie satffie for breach of the Sabbath, according to common ordour.

Letter to my Lord Annandaill.—The Presbyterie resolved to writte to my Lord Annandaile, anent Maige Reikie incestuous ; as also anent Beffie Cuper suspe&t of witche&craft.

Crawfurd concurreing in the matter of Cuper.—The Erle of Craufurd being present, was desired to be carefull for planteing of a seconf minister in Cuper, who promised to be carefull ; and the brether appoynt this day fourtene dayes for meittein of the Towne and Heritours of the parish of Cuper for that effect, the said Earle promiseing to be present the said day, and to concurre in the matter foirsaid.

Aprile 22.—Sir John Spottiswoods declaratione.—Sir John Spottiswood compeiried, and being asked, if he was in companie with the Enemie ? ansered, he came to Cuper to them to seik back his horses which they had taken from him. And being enquired, if he did eate and drinke with them ? ansered, he did upon this occasione ; and being asked, whither he went to Tarvate with them ? ansered, he did it, but upon Forther his request, that he should speake to Rankilour, that he might speake to Newtoune Gordoune for him. And being asked, if he went to the Newburgh with them ? replied, he did, to gett his horses which wer carried along to Abernethie, and not rendred without money. He was also enquired, if [he] knew of any of his sones goeing to the Enemie ? ansered, that his seconf sone went to Generall Ruthwen when he was absent in Ingland ; that he had bought five or sex yeiris since, ane Ensignes place for his thrid sone, and sent him to Germanie, and had never seen him since that time, but now of late ; and lastlie, that his eldest sone went into Montrose, bothe against his knowledge and his will. And being questioned, if he did refett his sone since Philiphaugh ? ansered, not befor the generall licence and publi< t

pardone of the Estates. And being further enquired, if David

Weitch was in his house in the tyme of the Parliament of St. Andrews? ansered, that he came to it with my Lord Lundoris: And lastlie being asked, if my Lord Gordoune or any of his brether wer in his house at Newmilne? he ansered, never. The brether delayed this matter till this day fiveten dayes. Sir John was summoned *apud acta* to be present the said day. Mr. John Ramsay desired to enquire of the Laird of Forther and his man, what they knew in the matter, and the whole brether to enquire in ther severall fessiones if they did know any point of malignancie in the said Sir Johne.

AT NEWBURGH, 13 MAY 1647.

Elders of Newburgh ther confeffione and censure.—The quhilk day, the Presbyterie held at Newburgh for execucon of the ordinance made the laft day at Cupar. And after sermon made be Mr. Johne Durie, and incalling on the name of God, Mr. James Wedderburne, Moderator for the tyme, asked Mr. Laurence Olyphant, whither or not he had made intimatione of the appoyntment of the Presbyterie made the laft day? ansered, he had done the fame, and gave in the names of the elders who ate and drank with Andrew Andersone excommunicate, viz. David Wentoun, Johne Layng, Thomas Anderfone, Patrick Birrell, Johne Low, Mr. David Fairfull, Patrick Ramsay, and Andrew Andersone his father, who prayed with his sone excommunicate. The foirsaid perfones being particularlie interrogate be the Moderator, declaired, they drank with him. As also, the said Mr. Laurence gave in the names of thes who confessed they did take him by the hand, but did not drinke with him, wiz. Johne Philp, Patrik Beatt, Johne Birrell. The Moderator, shewing to the saids Elders the greatnes of ther fine with the foirsaid excommunicate person, appoynted Mr. Laurence Olyphant to intimate out of pulpit the next Sabbath, a day of humiliatione to be keipit on Sunday come aucht dayes therafter be the whole parish of Newburgh, that all and everie one of them may be humbled for so great a fine. And in particulaire, the forfaid elders ar appoynted to fitt befor the said pulpit the said day, and everie one of them particulairlie to acknowledge ther fine in

converfeing with the forfaid excommunicate perfoune ; and Andrew Andersone for praying with him. And therafter the said Mr. Laurence is appoyned to receave them. All which was done according to the A&t of Synod made theranent.

Maij 27.—David Blyth his repentance.—David Blyth in the parish of Ebdie, (for shedding of blood on the Sabbath day,) is appoyned to stand at the kirke doore of Ebdie, Sonday next, barefooted and bareheadit, with the gun in his hand wherwith the blood wes shedde, vntill the laft bell, and thairafter to fitt befor the pulpitt the tyme of sermon, and, after sermon, to acknowledge and confesse vpon his knees his fine, and then be receaved.

June 3.—Intimatione of the act of the Committie.—This day, the brether reported ther diligence in intimateing the A&t of the Committie anent the receaveing of persones comeing from places suspe&ted of the plague, and wer approven thairin.

Act for the two young men ther repentance.—Mr. David Orme, producing the proeesse anent Mr. Harie Cuper and Mungo Duddingstone, forniciatores, was approven : And they themselfes compeireing both in sack-cloth, wer ordained to satifffie according to the A&t of the Synod.¹

Persones excommunicate.—Received from Mr. Walter Greig the names of the perfones excommunicate by the authoritie of the Commissione of the Generall Assemblye, viz. Mr. Alexander Innes, ane depoſed minister ; Mr. William Maitland, ane preacher ; Ludovicke Gordone, fone to the late Marqueſſe of Huntlie ; Arthur Forbes, ane follower of the faid Ludovick ; Patrik Gordoune with the ſteill hand ; Alexander Gordoune ; Patrik Leith of Harthill ; Johne Gordoune of Feichell ; William Gordoune of Newtoune younger.

June 10.—Fast to be keiped.—The brether resolved to keipe the fast appoyned be the Synod, and to adde to the caufes contained in the A&t, the ſpreading of the plague within the fyre.

Letter to Faulkland.—Ther was ane letter drawn vpe to be ſent to Faulk-

¹ They appear to be the two young men referred to in the question put by the Presbytery to the Synod, 1st April 1647, *q.v.*

land and Auchtermuchtie to desyre them to forbear ther ensueing fares be reasone of the pestilence.

References read.—The references from the Synod to the Presbyterie wer read in audience of the brether.

Familie exercise recommendit.—1. The brether being enquired anent familie exercise, declared they used diligence: It was recommendit to the brether be the Moderator to use farther diligence.

Anent Schooles.—2. Anent Schooles, it was recommendit to the brether to try whether ther schooles wer provydit according to the A&t of Parliament, and to report the next day.

Anent Da. Glaine.—3. Anent David Glaine murtherer, Mr. David Dalgleish reported he had written to Mr. James Bruce, promiseing to proeceed after that Mr. James had prayed the thrid tyme for him.

Anent a colleague in Cuper.—4. Anent the provydeing for a colleague to Mr. David Dalgleish in the Kirk of Cuper, the brether resolves to writte to the Commissione that fitts for plantatione of Kirks, and to concurre with the heritors and parishioners of Cuper.

A&t anent Sabbath.—5. The A&t anent the breach of the Sabbath is to be extra&ted.

Anent pennie briddels.—6. The A&t of Justice of Peace anent pennie bryddells to be sought for be Mr. James Martine from Alexander Marstiall.

Visitatione of Kirks delayed.—Be reasone of the plague spotteing abroad, the brether delayed the Visitatione of Kirks for a tyme.

Advice anent the Plague.—The Laird of Fernie, commissioneer from the Committie of the Shyre, compeired, desyred the bretheris concurrence for preventeing the prefent daunger of infectione: Quherinto the brether condicended, and ordained the A&t followeing:—

This day, after the incalling of the name of God, the brether being myndit be Sir James Arnott of Fernie knyght, of the defire of the Committie of the Shyre for our concurrence with them to the preventeing of the present daunger of infectione, and the spreading thairof in the shyre, have thought it our duetie to give all our heartie concurrence to the uttermost of our abilitie in such a good and neceſſar busines, not only in re-

gard of the care that wee shold have of the outward societie and peace of the shyre, quherin everie one of us have our intereft, but also, and spe- ciallie in regard of the great care incompetent to us anent our Lords glorie, and the keipeing of our congregations togidder vndissolved, quhilk wee would judge to be the greatest plague of all, if it shold please the Lord so to dispose: Therfor wee have thought fitt, if it shall seeme guid to your Honours, that, firſt, ye would be pleased to feik the concurrence of our brether in other Presbyteries: Secondlie, wee have thocht guid, after mor serious deliberatione, that, if it fall seeme fitting to the Honourable Committie of the shyre, tuo brether of our number, togidder with ane elder sent from us, fall concur with yow in this matter, with ther best advice at your severall meittings as they falbe allowed and directed by us and re- quired by yow: Thridlie, wee thinke it most expedient that exact care be taken in all townes and landwart parishes of civill passes and spirituall testimonialls, with severe punishment against the counterfitters, and such ecclesiastik censures as the severall Seſſiones fall thinke expedient: Fourtlie, wee, haueing confidered the great daunger proceeding from the disobedience of publick ordoures of them who, at this tyme and in this cafe, hes the chaire of the shyre, have thocht meit that whatſomever publi& ordoures made by the publi&, and ſeene and allowed be us, anent the preventeing of the further ſpreadeing of the Plague, is either neglegentlie or wilfullie transgreſſt and broken, we fall censure the ſaidis perſones ſpirituallie, and by thir prefents determines in maner after followeing, wiz. He that is proven negligent in obeyeing the publi& ordoures of the shyre duellie made and conſtitute for the common benefite, and for pre- venteing the fearefull diſſolutione of congregations, out of any wanton or iſolent humor, falbe commandit be our severall Seſſiones to make his repenteing befor the pulpit on ane Sabbath day as ane contemner of guid ordour, as unnaturall to his owne lyffe, the liffe of his familie and neighbouris, as vnchristian in negle&tting the welfare and prosperitie of the holy meittein. Iff any man throch willfull contempt fall despife the ordour civill, and now this ordour ſpirituall, be he minister, elder, or one of the people, rich or poor, great or ſmall, fall be under the proces of the Kirk vntill the greateſt, at the diſcretione of the Presbyteries: And all

this without the prejudice of the judgement and concurrence of our brethren in the rest of the Presbyteries.

June 24.—Mercates discharged.—Mr. James Martine and Mr. William Levingstone declaired that, according to the desire of the Presbyterie, the townes of Faulkland and Auchtermuchtie had discharged ther mercates becaus of the Plague.

Andro Andersone satified.—Mr. Laurence Olyphant declaired that Andro Andersone elder, had satified the Kirk according to the ordinance of the Presbyterie, for prayeing with his sone excommunicate.

July 15.—Supplicatione Johne Spindie.—This day, Johne Spindie, merchant of Dalkeith, declaired into the Presbyterie that he had maried Jean Buchan, but vnder the name of Jeane Paterson, and desired shée might be cleared of the aspersione of witchcraft which was put upon her, that he might have her for his wyffe: The Presbyterie required him to report a testificate of his marriage from Mr. Hue Campbell, minister at Dalkeith, and thairafter they wer to give ther anser.

David Glaine excommunicate.—Mr. David Dagleish reported, he had pronounced the sentence of excommunicatione againtest David Glaine, murtherer; intimatione to be made thairoff in all the kirks of the Presbyterie, and letters to be dire&tet to the other Presbyteries, that the same may be intimate throughout the province.

Supplie for David Allerdice.—The brether desired to deale with ther severall Seffiones anent supplie for rebuilding David Allerdice his house in Faulkland, brunt at command of the Committie of the shyre for avoyding the plague.

John Hamilton to be summoned.—Johne Hammiltoune, in the parish of Faulkland, to be summoned againtst the next day for his bloodie oathes againes God, and his misbehaviour towards his minister.

August 26.—Helen Deas to be summoned.—Helen Deas appoyneted to be summioned for abuseing of the place of repentance, and her not giving satissa&tione to the congregatiōne.

September 9.—A reference anent Schooles.—A reference to the Synod anent provisione of Schooles in a tuofold respect; first, of thes parishes that ar large and great may take themselfes to the least alterna-

tive contained in the a&t of Parliament made anent Schooles, wiz. a hundredth merkis, or may be stmented higher, according to the largenes and proportione with other parishes? Secondlie, whither Schooles formerlie provydit, but not reacheing to this least alternative of ane hundredth merkis, may the parishioners be now urged be vertue of this late a&t of Parliament, made in favours of Schooles, to provyde the schole according to the same or not?

September 16.—John Hamilton compeireth.—John Hamiltoune, in the parish of Faulkland, called and compeirand, confessed his fault; was appoynted to acknowledge the same vpon his knees befor the minister and baylzie, first in the place wher he committed it, secondlie befor the sessione, and thridlie befor the pulpit.

October 21.—Pennie bryddells.—The Presbyterie, considering the A&t of the late Synod holden at Dumfermling, the 6 of Aprile 1647, for repreffing the abuses in pennie bryddells, and finding the said a&t to be relative to ane act of Justice of Peace made to that effect the 24 of February 1636, does thairfor, ordaine the forsaid a&t of Synod to be read from all the pulpitts, that none pretend ignorance thairoff, and that the number at such brydles be straitlie vrged to be conforme to the number contained in the a&t of Justice of Peace, extending to 20, and at most not exceeding 24; and that the number at contracts and banquetts of this kynd be the just halfe heiroff; and that, vnder the paines contained in the said a&t of Justice of Peace: And for getteing of better obedience heirinto, ministers ar ordained not to contrare any parties vntill they oblige themselves to fullfill the premisses, and find cautione for that effect; and everie Sessione is appoynted to have the copie of the above specifiet a&t of Justice of Peace.

This day, compeired Mr. Andro Louthian fornicator, was judiciallie discharged from preaching and from any other publi&t exercise which befor he might have done as ane expe&tant; and that for the fornicatione latelie committed by him.

This day, Jonet Jethfeman, being wounditt in soule, greived in spirit, and fore pressed vnder the burden of ane adulterie committed by her nyne yeirs agoe in Cuper, with one Ja. Southerland, compeired of her owne accord, confessed the same, and offred satiffactione for it, as the onlie meane

to heale her woundes and calme her spirit : Shoe is referred vntill the next dyett ; and least shoe should be swallowed up of sorrow, Mrs. Walter Greig and William Row ar appoynted to conferre with her, and minister fpirituall comfort to her.

[Mr. John Hall, minister at Kilspindie.]

December 2.—This day, the Presbyterie appoyned everie brother to deall with ther elders, after a speciall maner, for fetteing vpe the woorshippe of God in ther families, and whatsomer elder after dealleing did want the same vsuallie, to be deposed.

December 16.—Catherine Jamesone, in the parish of Cults, appoyned to be summoned for hir railing from the place of publick repentance.

December 30.—This day, Mr. Andro Louthian compeired befor the Presbyterie, acknowledged with teares his great fine; was appoyned to be receaved the next Lords day in the kirk of Faulkland, from the ordinarie place of repentance, be the minister ther.

January 13, 1648.—The report from the feveral Seffiones anent the number of copies of the Directiones for Familie woorshippe they would take for the use of ther parishes, was as followes : Cuper reported they would take ane 100, Darfie 20, Cults 16, Faulkland 50, Auchtermuchtie 20, Dunbug 10, Creich 20, Flisk 10, Logie 16, Moonsie 8, Monymaill 20, Cullessie 30.

Catharine Jamesone appoyned to fitt one day in sackcloth for her former misbehaviour.

This day, the Presbyterie ordained everie brother who had not a competent stipend to use all legall meanes for helpeing thairoff.

January 27.—This day, the Presbyterie ordained that all young students who waittes on noblemen or gentlemen within thir bounds, aither to teach ther children or catechise and pray in ther families, to frequent the Presbyterie, that the brether may cognosce what they ar reading, and what proficiencie they make in ther studies, and to know also ther behaviour in the faid families, and of ther affectione to the Covenant and present religione.

March 2.—The overture anent receaveing of complaints, that is, if bills or complaints be presented to the Presbyterie, and be not in such

grave, sober, and plaine termes, without affe&tatione, and without imitatione of that libertie in libelling any thing vsed befor civill judicatories ; and if they be not such as doeth altogether beseeme ecclesiastick judicatories, the Presbyterie ordaines all such in all tyme comeing to be rejected and nowayes receaved.

[Mr. Henrie Smith, minister at Beath.]

March 9.—This day, Mr. Laurence Olyphant gave in his compts of the receipts of that money collected for the distressed people of Argyll, within the bounds of the Presbyterie, with ane discharge from Sir James Stewart of the fame; which being compared with the former compt was found to agrie with the fame, and thairfor appointed to be insert in the Presbyteries books ; the tenour wheroff followes, videlicet :—

I, James Stewart, merchant, of Edinburgh, grauntis me to have ressavit from Mr. Laurence Olyphant, minister of Newburgh, in the Presbyterie of Cuper, the sowme of sex hundreth fourscoir and fourtene libs. as the collectione above specifeit for the distressed people of Argyll, quheroff I dischairge the said Mr. Laurence in name of the said Presbyterie, by wertue of ane warrant of the Generall Assembly ordaineing me to receave the severall contributiones : Witness my hand at Edinburgh the 19 of Feb. 1648.

J. STEWART.

Mr. Alexander Balfour, this day, asked resolutione of the brether in thes particulairs, wiz. Whether deacons should have ane decifice voyce in Seffiones equall with elders or not ? 2dlie, Whether heridores, formerlie elders, but not residentaries in the parish, if vpone occasione they come to the Seffione, may have equall woyce with residentarie elders ? 3dlie, Whether a child brocht foorth in the beginning of the seventh [moneth] may live, and whether the parents of that child should be punished as fornicatores, it being immediately after ther marrage ? The brether referes the anser to thes vntill the next day.

March 16.—The brether, considering the severall provisiones of Ministers within ther bounds, and finding many not sufficientlie provided, did require them all, and most particulairlie Mr. Walter Greig, to vse all lawfull and ordinarie diligence to gett ther provisiones helped ; and Mr. Walter Greig was peremptorilie appoynted to vse diligence for that effect, becaus formerlie he could not gett it done becaus of the malice and

might of Bishopes against him, which the brether conceives should be ane motive to the Lords of plantatione now to sie him both the better provyded, and the mor speedilie dispached.

March 23.—The brether takeing to ther consideracione the supplicatione presented to them this day be Effie Wichtoune, together with her present estate and conditione, and the conditione of the child latelie brocht foorth by her in fornicatione with Mungo Duddingstone and Mr. Henrie Cuper, how that they ar both lyke to perish by famine, becaus none of the forsaide young men will owne the child, or doe the duetie of a parent therinto. And the Presbyterie also finding the said matter, to wit, which of thes tuo shold be father into that child, had not yet beene concluditt nor determined by any competent court be a judge competent, that both thes tuo fall joystlie contribute for the child's maintenance, and that vnder the paine of being lyable till further censures of the Kirk.

March 30.—This day, the Moderatour earnestlie recommenditt to the brether that they would be carefull to choise the ablest and best affected elders for waitteing on the Presbyterie the next half yeir.

April 13.—Thomas Owne and James Owne in Logie, being formerlie summond, wer called, and compeireing, confessyd wereie grosse and scandalous drunkennes and breach of Sabbath, wer appoynted to satisfie for the same in the thrie Kirks of Logie, Kilmanie, and Balmerinoch, and that from the publick place of repentance, and the said Thomas to be in fackcloth; and that it be intimate in all the thrie Kirks vnto them, that they salbe excommunicate if they continue in the forsaide faults and not amend; and that they pay ther penaltie to the Sessione of Logie, wherinto they ar presentlie remitted for receaving ther injun&tions.

April 27.—This day, the Moderatour enquired everie brother anent the repressoing of drunkennes, fweareing, and the profanatione of the Lords day in ther severall parishes; all the brether promised to sie to the repressoing of the forsaide vices.

[Mr. James Gillespie, minister at Rind.]

This day, Mr. Andro Louthian presented ane humble supplicatione to the Presbyterie, desiring that his mouth might be opened againe. The brether, willing to know his carriagde since the declaracione of his re-

pentance, desired Mr. William Levingstoune to aske the Seffione of Faulkland thairament, and to report.

This day, the Moderatour enquired the brethren and ruleing elders, if the Declaratione had been read by everie minister, and if any did put wrong glosses thairupon, and if any of the people did remove from heareing it read; and in all the præmisses nothing was found contrair to the A& of the Commiffione of the Kirk.

This day, Mr. Andro Bennett declared, that he had receaved tuo thousand merkis, left by Mr. Alexander Henderfone¹ to the schoole of Creich; asked adwice how it might be best secured: The brether desired him to adwise with the Shereff-clerk thairenant vntill the next day.

May 11.—The brether, this day, appoyned Mr. John Ramsay to desyre the brether of Kirkcaldie, and Mr. David Raitt, with Creich, to desyre the brether of St. Andros, to meitt with them Twesday forsaid, for mutuall adwice and concurrence in thir difficill tymes. Mr. John Ramsay was also to seik and crave the adwice of the Commiffione of the Kirk for ministers better dire&tione in the said tymes, and to returne against the day of ther first meitting.

May 16.—The quhilk day, the brethren being mett with the brethren of other Presbyteries, according to the former appoyntement, they did reeave ane letter from the Commiffione of the Kirk, which was directed to all the four Presbyteries within the province; wherby the said Commiffione did require everie minister to keipe himselfe frie from giveing adwice, assent, or countenance to this present Levie; as also, that no Presbyterie should send any of ther number along therwith: Wherinto all the brether did particulairlie assent.

This day, the brethren of Cuper, with the adwice of the brether from other Presbyteries, did condescend and ordaine that supplicationes from severall Presbyteries, Vniversities, and Burghes, should be provided, to be presented to the Committie of warre in the shire, which was to hold Thurse-day next; and that the severall Presbyteries should meitt apart for that

¹ Mr. Henderson was Minister of Leuchars, and afterwards of Edinburgh. This money, left to his native parish, was "for maintenance of ane Scoole in the Towne of Lithrie, within the parish of Creich." (Aiton's Life of Henderson, p. 663.) He died in August 1646.

effe&t, the other thrie on Weddenseday, and this Presbyterie of Couper on Thurseday next in the ordinarie place of meitteing.

It was also appoynted, by this meitteing, that correspondence should be keiped with brether of other shires.

It was recommenditt, be this present meitteing, to the severall Presbyteries, that they should enquire of everie brother absent from this meitting the reasones of his absense, and to censure them if the same be not found relevant; as also, to require ther assent and approbatione of the instrunctiones of the Kirk, formerlie mentioned.

This day, 40 copies of the Short Informatione wer receaved be the Presbyterie, at 8 pennies the peice.

May 25.—Ministers ar required to deall with ther parishioners not to goe on in the Protestatione taken be Craufurd againes the supplicationes of the severall Presbyteries.

The Presbyterie doeth appoyn特 ther supplicatione to be insert in all ther Seffiones books, and that everie Seffione might give ther approbatione therinto.

June 1.—This day, the brether wer defired to try if they could bring in a copie of the Protestatione forsaid, that they may the mor warrantable proceid against the subscribers thairoff.

June 8.—Christiane Barclay and Catharine Smyth compeired this day; and Christane Barelay complained on the faid Catharine Smyth that shoo had striken her within the kirk, quhill shoo was on her knees praying. The quhilk complaint the brether finding to be of truth, or at least finding the faid Catharine to have miscarried wereie farre in the kirk to the faid Christiane, did ordaine Catharine forsaid to satisfie for the same befor the pulpitt of Creich the next Sabbath.

June 15.—This day, was presented to the brethren ane A&t of the Commissione of the Kirk, which being read and approven be all, was ordained to be insert and registrat in the Presbyterie book; the tenour wheroff followes:—

Edinburgh the 5 of June 1648.—The Commissione of the Generall Assembly recommends seriouslie to Presbyteries to take speciall notice and tryall of every brotheris carriage in the publict busines. That iff any be found who doe not declair themselves againtest the present

Ingagement, nor joyne with ther brethren in ther common Resolutiones againstest it, nor give publict informatione to the people off the Vnlawfulnes of it, they may be referred to the next Generall Assemblie ; and if any of them have alreadie declaird themselves for it, that they be presentlie censured.

Sic subscriptitur, MR. ANDRO KER.

Four copies of Mr. Zacharie Boyd his Psalmes wer delyvered this day to the Presbyterie, to be adwised with vntill the next General Assembly.

June 22.—This day, ane letter from the Commiffione of the Kirk, with the Causes of the Fast to be holden the last Thurseday of June and firſt Sabbath of July, wer delyvered into the Presbyterie ; which Causes wer appoynted to be registrate in the Presbyterie book ; the tenour whereof follows :—

1. Wee ar to mourne for all the sines and provocationes mentioned in the Causes of our former humiliatione, quhilk doe continue and abound notwithstanding of all our obligationes to reforme our wayes, and many former solemne profesſiones of repenteſce, and of all the sharpe rods wherwith God corrects us, and heavie jugementis quherwith he now threatenſ us.

2. Wee ar in ſpeciall way to be humbled for the countenance that hath beine given, and compliancie that hath beene made, by too many with Malignants and perſones diſaffected to the worke of reformatione, which, in the just jugement of God, at laſt hes put ſuch power and ſtrength in their hands as is terrible to the people of God, and threatens his worke with ruine.

3. Wee ar to bewaille the ſmall proficiencie wnder the preaching of many, the great contempt of the Gospell in others, and the great hardnes of heart and obſtinacie in ſome, not only into the diſpifeing and reproacheing of the miniftrie, but to the rejeiecting of the moſt powerfull word of exhortatione in the mouthe of his ſervands.

4. Wee ar to be humbled for the greivous backslyding that is amongs us, which hath prevailed to the vndertakeing of ane vnlawfull Ingagement, notwithstanding of many petitiones from Burghs, Shyres, Presbyteries and Synods to the contrarie ; which vndertakeing, besyd many ſad effects amonſt ourelfes, is lyke to rent in ſunder the vniōn betwixt the kingdomes, and not only obſtruct the progresſe of the worke of reformatione, but overturne the fundationes alreadie laid.

5. Wee ar to lament befor the Lord the oppreſſione of his people in many places of this kingdome, vnto the ſpoyleing of ther goods, offering violence to ther perſones, and forceing of ther conſciences, by cauſeing ather to endure great afflictione, or to ſine againſt God by being accessorie to a ſinful course.

6. Wee ar deeplie to be humbled that the Parliament now riſen, they have beine ſo farre from ſatisfieing the juſt and neceſſar desires of the Kirke, or to the Petitiones preſented into them, that they have enioyed obedieſce to all thair ordours vpon the grounds of ther Declaratione in Aprill.

7. Wee ar to intreat the Lord in behalfe of our King, that he may be convinced and repent of the evillis of his former wayes, and may be inclined to the love and approbatione of the work of God: And in behalfe of thes who have power of the kingdome in ther hands, that they may desist from everie sinfull course, and satisfie the just and necessar desires of the Kirke, and conciencees of the weill affected in the land, by secureing religione, and preserveing the vnion betuixt the tuo kingdomes and monarchicall governement in the persone of the King and of his posteritie.

8. Wee ar to begge of God that all the purposes, both of Sectaries and of the Popish prelaticall and malignant partie in all the thrie kingdomes, againtest the truth and worke of God, may be disappoyned, and ther power crushed. So also that the Lord would strenthen his people in all these dominions to adhear, without shrinkeing or fainteing, to the cause of God, and bear a faithfull testimonie thairto in the day of tentatione.

9. Lastlie, wee ar to pray for a blessing vpon the ensuing Generall Assemblie, that they may meitt in peace and love, and, being furnished with the spirit of vnitie and faithfulnes, wisdome and zeall, they may so carie themselves in everie thing as that the hopes and designes of disaffected men may be disappoyned, truth may be preserved, holynes promoved amongst ourselfes, and the worke of vuniformtie advanced among our neigboures.

The League and Covenant was this day appoyned to be read be everie brother the first day of the fast, to the people, and ther diligence herein to be enquyred the next dyett.

This day, the brether wer desired to require ther people to delay the mercatt of Auchtermuchtie, which was to fall the day following the fast, vntill the Twefday thairafter.

Augyl 24.—This day was presented a letter from the Commiffione of the Kirke, wherby they require everie brother to advertise ther people that they be not taken with thes Observations emitted be the Eſtaittes vpon the Generall Assemblie ther Declaratione, vntill ther anſers should come forth into them. All the brether promised to doe as it was required.

Thomas Duncane in Sires, haveing complained to that Seſſione on Henry Anderſone, that the ſaid Henrie had ſaid that Thomas forſaid had lyen with this Henrie his wyffe; and the Seſſione haveing defiſed the adwice of Presbyterie therintill, the Presbyterie did ordaine the ſaid Henrie to make declaratione of his repentence in ſackcloſh for his ordinarie drunkenneſs, and for flandering of his wyffe, haveing vpon tryall found the whole matter to be but flaundre.

August 31.—Mr. John Ramsay and Mr. Wm. Livingstone sent to Bruntiland.—This day, Mr. John Ramsay and Mr. William Levingstoune wer dire&tet from the Presbyterie to Bruntiland, ther to deall with the meiting of Burrowes, that some course might be taken be them for preventeing any further effusione of innocent blood.

September 14.—The Presbyterie did desire Mr. Walter Greig and Mr. David Dalglish to goe to the Committie, and in name of the brether, offer ther affistance and best concurrence for furthering and advanceing heir the work of God in this day of Jacobs trouble, and to exhorte them to stedfaſtnes.

September 21.—The quhilk day ther was no exercize, be reafone the Presbyterie was laitt in conveineing, because of thir present feares and troubles.

October 12.—Reference anent ane expectant, who haveing fallen in fornicatione, and haveing contracted the partie with whom he fell, refuses to performe the marriagde, notwithstanding the woman allegdes promise vpon oath; which fhe, being desired to pursue befor the jugde competent, has never yet pursued: How the Presbyterie fall proceid in the said matter?

October 18.—The Assembly ordenes the haill ministers and ruling elders of the Presbyterie of Couper to meitt at the kirk of Darsie, with Mrs. Patrik Scougall, James Bruce, and Andrew Honnyman, ministters, with the Laird of Creich and Kingraig, ruling elders, for removeing of the monuments of idolatry and superftitioun in the said kirk of Darsie; and cognoscing the haill fabrick theirof. And the meiting to be wpon Mononday nixt the 23d of this instant. And the Minister to mak intimatioun theirof wpon Sonday nixt to the heritors and elders to be present for that effect.¹

¹ The meeting was accordingly held at Darsie, but the minuto is totally silent as to these monuments of idolatry, it being exclusively devoted to the erection and division of seats in the church. But, fortunately, the *Synod Record* informs us, “ That at the entrie of sindrie deskis, upon the platforme, and above the great west doore, there are crosiar staffes, in some part alon, and in other as a aditament and cognisance of the last pretended Bischops armes, not being any signe or cognisance ordinarie and commune in that name or familie, bot meirlie a signe of

November 2.—This day, Mr. George Thomson declared, that Mr. David Kynneir in face of their Sessioun declared that he had subfcryved the Protestatioun against the Supplicatioun, and that he rewed nothing of the doing of it; and if it were to doe, he would doe it over againe: to which he added (after some interruption) out of the intention he had done it, whieh, (as he affirmed) was for the glory of God, the good of the Kirk, and the releife of his Prince. Wherupon the Presbyterie advyfed that the said Mr. David should be proceſſed be the Sessioun of Kilmany, and be ſuspendit from being ane elder.

November 16.—The whilk day, Mr. George Thomſone declares that Mr. David Kynneir, being called befor the Sessioun of Kilmany, did declare that he was fory that he had ſpoken any thing that did give offence; and that the purpose of his ſpeach was not to justifie his actione, but only his intention in respect of the action; ſubmitting to the judgement of the Kirk: wherfor, furder proceſſe againſt him is delayed till the A&t of the Commiſſione of the Kirk be fein.

This day, Mr. David Orme produceth a roll of the names of thēe that had fied shearers on the Sabbath day in Abernethie, September 17 and 24. It is ordeined that they be proceſſed and censured in their feveral Sessiouns.

December 7.—This day, a letter is produced from the Commiſſioun of the Kirk, together with the copies of the League and Covenant, and the ſolemne acknowledgement, and the A&t of the Generall Asſembly for renewing of the Covenant; together with the a&t for debarring from the Covenant and Communion; together with anſwers to the Committies Observations wpon the Asſemblyes Declaratione. In obedience to the whilk lettred, the Presbyterie resoluteſ as followes. The Presbyterie, conſidering the papers now at laſt come to ther hands (although ſtraiſted

his degric hierachicall, according to the maner and forme used among the Romane hierarchists, and others following them:” and that there is “a glorious partition wall, with a degric ascending thereto, dividing the bodie of the kirk fra there queir (as it is ordinarlie called in papistrie, and among them that follow papists); and above the great doore of their queir, ſo called, the armes of Scotland and England quartered, with divers crosses about and beside them, are ſet up.” All these were ordered to be removed by the Synod as being ſuperstitious.

with tyme) yet resoluing to use all possible diligence to joyne with the rest of the Kirk in renewing of the solemne League and Covenant at the tyme apointed by the Commissioun of the Kirk, have apointed that on Sunday nixt, after sermon in the foirnoon, the A&ts respctive of the Commissioun of the Kirk, with the explanation be publickly red, together with the solemne acknowledgement of publick sinnes; That the fast be intimat on the said day to be obserued on Thuresday nixt, and the Saboth following, and the Covenant to be renewed that day according to the order prescryved; And that all the congregatioun be requyred to dilate to the Seffoun (to be keiped that day) any whom they know to come vnder the compasse of the a&ts of being debarred from the Covenant and communion; And that ewerie minister enquyre particularly in the Sef- foun that day, and tak up a list of these that come wnder the compasse of the forsaid a&ts; and to cause summond the saidis persones to the Pres- byterie, to be keiped wpon Monday nixt for that purpose, that their it may be cleired who ar to be debarred, and who not; and if any being summond doe not compeir, it is ordeined that their processes ly over till after the renewing of the Covenant, and that they be debarred in the meantyme: Also, it is appointed, that the information of the present con- dition of affaires, and declaration concerning present dueties from the Commissioun of the Generall Assemblie to the Kirk and Kingdome be publikly red wpon the Thuresday of the fast, after the foirnoons sermon before the blessing: Also, if any being dilated cannot be gotten summond personally, being from home, it is apointed, that they be delayed till after- wards.

December 11.—The whilk day, the brethren meiting according to the apointment of the former day, after incalling of the name of God, did pro- ceid against delinquents in the mater of the vnlawfull Engadgement, as followes :—

First, dilated by the Seffoun of Couper, as having charge in the en- gadgement, Andrew Paterfone lievetennent, David Johnston younger, quartermaster, Captain Robert Whyt.

Andrew Paterfone and David Johnfon called, compeireing, and found to have had charge in that vnlawfull Engadgement, ar suspendit from the

Covenant and communion till the nixt Generall Assembly, according to the a&t of the Commissioun of the Kirk, and their suspension to be publicly intimat.

Capitan Whyt is found to be prisoner in Ingland.

Dilated also, by the Sessioun of Couper, for subferyng the Protestatioun entered in the Committie of the shyre against the supplicationes of the Presbyteries respe&tive within the shyre to the Parliament, Sir James Balfour, Alexander Inglis, Gilbert Paterfone, Mr. Patrick Glaffurd.

Sir James Balfour called, compeires, and confesses he had subferyved the foirsaid Protestatioun, and declares that he was fory he had done so ; and that he is willing to testify his disallowance of it, and to declare his repentance for it, any way the Presbyterie shall think fitt, and earnestly desires that he may be received to the Covenant. Wherupon the Presbyterie, finding by the testimony of severall brethren that he had not bein malignant or disaffectionat to the Covenant and cause of God, before the vnlawfull Engadgement ; but, on the contrair, had done and suffered for it, ordeines, that he subferyng the paper, (the tenor quherof followes :— “ Wheras ane Protestatioun was entered before the Committie of warre of the shyre of Fyffe, bearing a direct oppositioun therwnto, and ane urging of the advancement of the vnlawfull Engadgement, whilk Protestatioun being presented to us wnder subferyvers, we did subferyve it ; for whilk we ar heartily fory, and doe professe we doe think that Engadgement to be vnlawfull, and, if we had the paper, wold willingly rend our names theirfrom : whilk we declare as in the fight of God by our subsciptions ;”) and declaring his repentance publicly befor the congregation, coming out of his owne seat, and promysing more circumspet walking (in respe&t of the Covenant in all tyme comming) shalbe admittit to the renewing of the Covenant. Wherupon he being called, and the said ordinance intimat to him, he willingly submitts to it, and presentlie subferyves the foirsaid paper in face of the Presbyterie, and promyses to obey the rest of the order.

The magistrats, counsellors, and gentlemen, in the paroche of Couper who did put foorth men in the said vnlawfull Engadgement, being called, compeirs, and declares that they did put out those men against their will, being threatned with plowndering and quartering ; and that they werre

fory they had done so, and willing to declare the same any way the Presbyterie should think fitt : Wherwpon the Presbyterie, (knowing the good affection of the faid magistrats, cownsellors, and gentlemen to the Covenant and cause of God, and that they had never formerly bein found in any thing to be malignant,) ordeines, that they, declaring publikly before the congregation, standing up in their owne featts, and inclynning their body, their disallowance of the faid Engadgement, and that they werre fory they had any wayes concurred in it, shalbe received into the Covenant. Whilk being intimat to them, they willingly submitt to it, and promyfes to obey the faid ordinance.¹

The whilk day, Mr. Walter Greig craves advyce of the brethren anent a woman who had confessed hir selfe to be a witch. The Presbyterie, not having tyme to think upon that mater, delayes it till the nixt day.

December 31.—Mr. John Dury, minister at Logy, delated Johne Hall for refusing to fwear and subscryve the Covenant, who, going forth in the tyme of the reiding of it, is therfor apointed to be summond against the nixt day.

It is apointed, that it be tryed in ewerie paroche, who werre absent at the tyme of the renewing of the Covenant, and for what reason ; and that theſe who werre necessarly absent, and ar desirous to fwear the ſame, be admittit to fweare before the Seffioun, and that others be ſpecialy taken notice of.

Concerning Helen Young, in the paroche of Balmirrinoch, who had confeſſed hir ſelf to be a witch, it is apointed, that Mrs. Johne Makgill elder and younger, Andrew Bennett, James Wedderburne, George Thomson, ſhall meitt with Mr. Walter Greig on Monday nixt, and ſpeak with the faid Helen Young, and report to the Presbyterie what they find the nixt day.

January 4, 1649.—The whilk day, diverſe of the brethren enquyring what course ſhould be taken with theſe who refuſed to fweare, or having fworne, did delay to put their hands to the Covenant. The Presbyterie thinks it meet to deall particularly with them, and desires Mr. Johne Mak-

¹ A great many other gentlemen and common people were, upon this occation, delated by the different Sessions of ſimilair offences, and received the like ſentences.

gill younger, to repair to the Commissioun of the Kirk the nixt week, and to try their what course is thought meitt to be taken with these who refuse to fweare, or put their hand to the Covenant.

The whilk day, the brethren, apointed to joyne with Mr. Walter Greig in dealing with Helen Young, reports that stile she confesses hir selfe to be a witch; but that when she is posed wpon particulars she seems to them either to dissemble, or els to be distracted. But because she spak something reflexing wpon Helen Small and Elspet Seith, the brethren think it meitt to goe on in the examination of Helen Small and Elspet Seith; and in the mean tyme recommends to Mr. Walter Greig to deall with Helen Young, to try what can be had against Helen Small and Elspet Seith, in their Sessioun, against the nixt day.

Mr. David Orme declares, that Helen Small was summond, and that he had found in their Sessioun, that she had bein for a long tyme *malæ famæ* for witcherhaft; and that she had bein proceesed in their Sessioun for the fame in the yeir of God I^mVI^e fowrtie-fowr; and that some of their Sessioun had now deponed against hir as followes:—

At Monimell, the last of December, 1648.—Whilk day, after incalling the name of God, the Minister declared to the Sessioun, that Helen Young, in the parishe of Balmirrinoch, had spoken something reflexing wpon Helen Small about maters of witcherhaft, and that he was apointed to desyre the Sessioun to try if they would give any information against the said Helen Small.

January 7, 1649.—The whilk day, it is declared that, beside the scandal conueining William Balingall his death, for which the said Helen was proeest, she was of a long tyme *malæ famæ* for witcherhaft. Item, it is alledged against hir, that she sent with Alexander Allan in Lethem, a stoup full of barme to Bessie Swans spous Thomas Mackassie, to be given him to drink whil he was sieke, after which the said Thomas died. Item, that Alexander Arthur in Kumquhy his wyfe, having flittin with the said Helen, fell sieke, and afterward, reproveing the said Helen, his kow died, and immiediatly his wyfe recovered. It is further declared, that on a day Johne Skirling in Caldeoats, ryding towards Leathem, and meet the said Helen, who was hard say, “Saw yee ever such a long-legged man as this?” After which the said Johne fell sieke and dwyned about whil he died. The Sessioun, taking these delationes to their consideration, ordeines Helen Small, Bessie Swan, Alexander Allan, Margaret Young, Margaret Webster, to be summond against the nixt day for tryell of the præmisses.

January 14.—Whilk day, Helen Small being called, compeireid, and being questioned concerning the barme, did confess that she, being in Jonet Wats house, the said Jonet requysted

hir to cause Margaret Young send a soup barme to hir to bake with, and that she had gotten the same, and desyred the said Alexander Allan to cary it to the said Jonet Watt. Being questioned concerning Alexander Arthurs kow, and his wyffes sicknesse, denied she knew any thing therof but by report. Lykewyse, being questioned concerning Johne Skirlings long legs, denied the same.

Bessie Swan called, compeired, and being questioned concerning the barme which Alexander Allan broght to hir from Helen Small, declared that Alexander Allan broght ane stoup full of barme to hir, which the said Helen Small had sent hir, whilk she did cast in the milne burne.

Alexander Allan called, compeired, declared that the said Helen Small did send the barme with him to the said Bessie Swan.

Margaret Young declares, that Helen Small did seike barme from hir to be sent to Jonet Watt in Monimell, which she desyred Alexander Allan to [take to] the said Jonet, and not to Bessie Swan ; and being posed, if Helen Small had spoken to hir concerning the barme before she came to the Sessioun ? answered, she had.

Margaret Wobster in Kinoquhy, called, compeired, and being questioned, if after she had fitten with Helen Small, that she fell sicke, and whither or not the said Helen being reproved by hir housband, Alexander Arthur, their kow died and she amend ? Answered, that indeed after hir flytting with the said Helen she fell sicke, whilk she tooke from the hand of God ; and that she knew not that hir housband did reprove the said Helen, and that their kow died when she was sieke, and that after the deathe of the kow she amended, whilk she acknowledged lykewyse to come from God. And being questioned, whither she hard the said Helen say, when their kow was dead, "I thank God I have gotten my hearts sythe now ?" denied that she heard the said Helen speake the same, but that she heard others clavering the same, wherof she took no notice.

Agnes Wobster called, compeired, and being questioned, whither or not she knew any thing concerning Helen Small hir speach anent hir goodman his long legges ? Answered, she knew nothing of it, but only heard a flying report, and that hir housband was long sicke and afterward died ; whilk they both tooke from the Lords hand.

This day, James Webster declared that the said Helen Small had promysed to doe him ane evill turne ; whilk the said Helen denied, being posed thairantent. The said Helen is summond *apud acta* to compeir the nxxt day. James Wobster is apointed to prove the same, and to advertise the minister that the witnesses may be summond (when he hes gotten their names) against the nxxt day.

January 21.—Whilk day, James Wobster being questioned, whither or not he had found any light concerning that speach of Helen Smalls ? Answered, that he had gotten none as yit. The Sessioun apointed the said James to use further diligence, and to acquaint the minister.

January 28.—The whilk day, James Wobster declared he had gotten no further light as yit. The Sessioun ordeins him *ut supra*.

The said Helen Small compeirs, and being posed by the Moderator, if she knew that she had bein a long tyme bygone suspect and flandered for a witch ? she, after some shifting answeres, confessed that she did know it. Being enquyred, why she was not carefull to be purged of that slander ? she answered, that she could not stope their mouthes, and God would reward them. Being enquyred anent the particulars alledged against hir in the Sessioun of Monimell, she denied all. Wherfor it is recommended to Mr. David Orme to examine the particulars more narrowly. Concerning James Birtlitt, she confesses that she being fent for, went to him ; but that it was to gitt a band of 100 merkis which he had of hirs ; which, notwithstanding, she got not. She denyes that she applyed anything at all to him. It is recommended to the Sessiouns of Balmirrinoch and Monimell to try more particularly concerning hir against the nixt day, and she is summond *apud acta* to compear the nixt day.

January 18.—Mr. Walter Greig declares to the Presbyterie the death of Helen Young by sicknesse, who had before confessed hir self to be a wiche. Helen Small and Elspet Seith compeiring, and maters concerning them not being sufficiently cleired from the Sessiouns of Monemell and Balmirrinoch, they ar apointed to compear when the ministers shall advertise them.

February 1.—Mr. Walter Greig returning from the Commissione of the Kirk, delivered a lettre to the Presbyterie from the said Commissioun, dated January 15, the tenor wheroft followes :—

RIGHT REVEREND,

WHEREAS we have bein informed that diverse Presbyteries have bein negligent, and too suddaine in the admitting to the renewing of the League and Covenant persones that ar disaffected, and to whom the favour granted in the explanation of the Act of Commission doth not belong, and the many applications ar still made to Presbyteries by Malignants, and men that have bein dieply involved in that late Engadgement, to be readmitted to the Covenant : Therfore, we have thought it necessary to warne yow that yee be very circumspect, and tak good heid whom yow admitt to the Covenant, that so the cause of God suffer no prejudice by your joyneing with the Enemies therof. And for this cause wee desyre that the tryall of such, according to the rules and directiones wee have formerly given, may bee by your selues, and no by your Sessions ; and that yow cause registrate your whole proeceedings in every one of your Books. And wher any questionable causes come before yow concerning the admitting of per-

sones to the Covenant, yow shall referre them hither, and apoint the persones who importune yow for that favour to mak their addresses wnto us. And wee cannot conceale from you, if any persone or persones be admittit to renew the Covenant who ar not allowat by our Act and explanation, by the gryt trust committed wnto us, we wilbe necessitated to proceid against such, and to take notice of the Presbyteries proceidings in applying the Act apointed by us to regulate the admitting of persones in the renewing of the Covenant. Yow ar lykewyse heirby desyred to hasten in that report of your diligence, with the list of the persones debarred from the Covenant within the severall churches in yowr bounds. And, so committing yow to the Lords speciall directione, wee remaine.

Which the Presbyterie, taken to their consideracion, resolued carefully to obey. Also they received ane other lettore of the same daitt, the tenor whereof followes :—

RIGHT REVEREND,

Yow shall receive three copies of the new paraphrase of the Psalms, at a mark the peice, which yow wilbe pleased to peruse carefullie ; and that yow would amend any fault yow find in them, and send in yowr correctiones to ws with diligence ; for tis not eneugh to find out faults, except yow also set down your own assay correcting the same. Receive also heir-with nyntein Acts of the Assembly at a mark the peice. There ar sent wnto [yow] the Explanationes of our former Act, concerning our debarring of persones from the Covenant, price of the peice of them is six pennies. We must entreat yow to send in the prices of these papers yow have gotten now and formerly with all diligence, that the printer may be payed. Receive also nyntein copies of the Testimonie of this Church against the proceidings of the Sectaries, etc. price of peece 2s. As also, that yee will not faile to send in what is due of the twentie shillings for this and bygon yeeres. We expect yowr diligence heirin, and the report therof ; and so we remaine.

In obedience wherto they did delyver one of the copies of the paraphrase of the Psalms to Mr. David Dalgleishe, another to Mr. David Orme, and the thrid to Mr. Walter Greig, apointing them to peruse the same, and having perused the same, to delyver them to other brethren to be perused lykwyse by them, that the report may be given in according to the desyre of the Assembly.¹

Another letter also was delyvered to the Presbyterie by Mr. Walter Greig ; the tenor wherof followes :—

¹ This was the version by Francis Rous, which was afterwards sanctioned by the General Assembly, and is still used in the Scottish Church.

REVEREND BRETHREN,

ALBEIT, we have long expected from yow ane accomp̄t of yowr diligence concerning the provision and other particulars relating vnto the severall Kirks within yowr bounds, according to the Act of the Generall Assembly in the year 1647, yet we have hitherto receaved no satisfaction from yow heirin. And conceiwing yowr negligence in this to have bein very prejudicall to the setling of yowr severall Kirks, and that a perfect accomp̄t of these things would contribute very much for furthering of the same, therfore, we doe now desyre yow, as yee would not wish the blame to ly vpon yow any longer, to tak pains for setting down the names of all the paroches within yowr bounds, with declaration which of them have ministers, which not ; what is the largenesse of the bownds ; commodious or incommodious situation of each particular paroche kirk ; what is the number of communicants ; what kirks ar wnder patrons, what not ; who ar the severall patrons ; what is the nature and quantity of the present provision, or possible grownd of further provision, or competent maintenance, where the same is not sufficiently provyded already. As also what paroches ar vnited, or disvnted, or bettered alreadie ; and in what measure by the said Commissioun. And that this may not be delayed or slichted, we trust that yow will immediatly after the sight heirof, to name one of yowr number to tak paines heirin, and that yow wilbe carefull to give vnto him yowr best concurrence and assistance for cleiring of these particulars to yowr severall kirks. Wee will expect a perfect accomp̄t of all these things against the nixt meiting of the Commissioun on February, or as soon therafter as possibly can be. Wee think we shall neid to say no more in a bussinesse tending so much to yowr owne advantage, and to the good and setling of all the kirks within the kingdome, but commands yow to the grace of God, and continowes.

Wee pray yow be carefull that none of the particulars in the Act of Assembly, and sit down in our lettē, be omitted concerning any of yowr Kirks. It is very lyke that these who shall first report their diligence in these particulars shalbe first taken in consideration by the Commissioun of Plantation of Kirks.

In obedience wherto, Mr. Andrew Bennett was apointed to receive from ewerie brother ane information anent the state and condition of their stipend and paroche, according to the desyre of the lettē ; which ewerie brother was apointed to bring in to him against the nixt day, that he might prepare the same with all expedition to be sent over to the Commissioun of the Kirk.

This day, Mr. David Orme produceth the processe of the Sessioun of Monemell against Helen Small, suspect of witchcraft ; which, because it is found yet not to be cleired in ewerie particular, it is referred back againe to the said Sessioun for further cleiring. And Helen Small called, com-

peirs, and is apointed to come to the Presbyterie when Mr. David Orme showlde advertise hir.

February 15.—Mr. Walter Greig cravynge advyce, what punishment is to be inflicted wpon a woman who had falle down wpon hir knees and curst hir neighbour? It is thought meit, that she shall declare hir repentance publikly before the Congregation.

Mr. Andrew Lawthian, produceing to the Presbyterie his absolvitor before the Commissars of Edinburgh, concerning his alledged oath of mariage to Elspet Shaw, and he being desyrous to give satisfacⁿtion in the paroche of Falkland, in respect of any scandal given by him during the tyme of his abode their, that he might have a testimoniall from thence to any paroche wher it shall please the Lord to give him occasion to reside: The Presbyterie ordeines the said Mr. Andrew Lawthian to compeir befor the pulpit of the kirk of Falkland, vpon ane Saboth before noon, and ther declare his sorrow and greif for all his offences during his abode in Falkland, and especially for his levity in contracting and quyting againe mariage with hir with whom he had fallen in fornication; and also, that thorugh any wncircumspeⁿtnesse of his walking, any of that congregation should have taken any offence at him, as if he had bein given to excessive or wntymous drinking; which he hath the more reason to be greived for, because having the honor to preach Gods word, amongst whom he should have bein exemplar for a holy conversation, and crave God and that congregation forgivenesⁿ, and promyse, with the Lords grace, to walk more circumspeⁿtly in all tyme comming.

February 26.—The whilk day, after incalling the name of God, ewerie severall brother being requyred, according to the lettre received from the Commission of the Kirk, to give in in writt the estate of the paroche and stipend, the same was given in by ewerie brother, except be Mr. Johne Ramsay, who had not bein present severall dayes before, because of sicknesse, and therfor knew not that it should have bein given in that day; and Mrs. Johne Murray and Johne Littlejohne, who werre absent.

The whilk day, Sir George Morrison being called, compeirs, and being enquyred anent his judgement of the late vnlawfull Engadgement, he de-syred to appoint some two of their number to conferre with him for his

satisfaction in somethings wherof he doubted ; wherupon the Presbyterie apointed Mr. Walter Greig and Mr. George Thomfone to speak with him, and delayed his proesse till the nixt day.

Capitan Johne Morison, in the paroche of Darfy, compeirs, and acknowledges, that he had a patent from the Eirle of Lenrick to levie men in the West cowntry for the said vnlawfull Engadgement, and that he was interrupted by rysing of the West cowntry after the miscariage of the said Engadgement : The Presbyterie ordeines him to be debarred from the Covenant and communion till the nixt Generall Assembly.

March 8.—Concerning the reference for plantation of Schools, it is apointed, that the nixt day ewery brother represent to the Presbyterie the eace of their paroche in respect of a School, that theirafter diligence may be used for planting schools wher they ar wanting.

It is recommended to severall brethren to be carefull to intimat in their severall kirks, wpon the Saboths immediatly before Midsommer and Hallowewen, that no fyres to be fit on wpon these nights.

It is yet referred to the ensewing Provinciall, what course shal be taken with women processsed for witchcraft, and not cleired.

Elspit Seith, in the paroche of Balmirrinoch, compeiring, is examined by the Presbyterie, and summond *apud acta* to compear the nixt day.

March 15.—The whilk day, Andrew Patrik compeiring, and being examined, declared, that in the last goesommer¹ fave one, as he was comming furth of the Galrey to goe to his owne house, betuixt 11 and 12 houres at ewen, as he was in the west syde of Henry Blak his land, he saw 7 or 8 women dancing, with a mekle man in the midst of them, who did weare² towards him, whil they came to a litle loch, in the which they werre putting him, so that his armes werre wett to the showlde blaids ; and that he knew none of them except Elspet Seith, whom (as he affirms) he knew by hir tongue, for he hard hir say to the rest, “ He is but a filly drukn larde ; let him goe.” Being enquiryred, what he was doing that way so late ? Answered, that he had bein in Johne Rikie his house, tailzeor in the Galrey, scheaping clothes ; and that he had sent for a quart

¹ The beginning of Autumn.

² Gradually approach.

aill, and staying whil it was drukken, it was late. Being enquyred, whither he went after that fear? Answered, he went to his ounе houſe, and that he cryed ſo before he came neir his houſe, that they who werre in his houſe opened the doore, and came furth and mett him; and that he went in to his owne houſe with gryt fear all wett. He being questioned, why he did not reveile the foirſaid mater preſently theiraſter? Anſwered, that wpon the morne he told it to Alexander Kirkaldy.

Andrew Patrik and ſhe being confroneted before the Presbyterie, he affirmeſ, ſhe denyeſ.

Helen Swyn, in the paroche of Forgen, compeirs and complains, that Andrew Patrik had raifed a flander wpon hir as being amongſt theſe women whom he had fein. Andrew Patrik denyeſ that ewer he had ſpoken of hir. Mr. George Thomſone declares, that wheras the ſaid Helen Swyn had complained in their Seſſion of Kilmany, that Thomas Kynneir, in the ſaid paroche, had flandered hir as being in that number, the Seſſion had called Thomas Kynneir before them; who affirmed, that he heard Andrew Patrik ſay, that he knew not only Elfpit Seith, but alſo Isobel Troylus and Helen Swyn, amongſt thoſe women whom he ſaw dancing; and that David Arthur, Johne Grahame, and Andrew Patrik his fonne, was preſent and heard the famyn. The Presbyterie, conſidering all the premitiſes, apoints a meiting wpon Monday the 26 of this iſtant, for trying the foirſaid mater; and ſummons Andrew Patrik and Elfpet Seith *apud acta* to compeir the ſaid day; and apoints Mr. Walter Greig to cauſe ſummond theſe that werre in Andrew Patrik his houſe that night he came hame wett and feared, (as he alledgedeſ.) Alſo, to cauſe ſummond Alexander Kirkaldy, to whom he told it wpon the morrow. As alſo, to cauſe ſummond Jonet Bell to be tryed in a mater of flander concerning Elfpet Seith. Alſo, the Moderator is apointed to writt to Mr. Alexander Wedderburne, to cauſe ſummond Johne Rikie and his wyfe, in the paroche of Forgen, againſt the ſaid day; alſo, to cauſe ſummond Thomas Kynneir, David Arthur, Johne Grahame, and Andrew Patrik younger, in the paroche of Kilmany, againſt the ſaid day, to be tryed in the foirſaid particular.

The brethren being enquyred to give in their diligēce concerning the

estate of their Schools in their severall paroches ; it was found, that the only way to gett Schols fully setled, was to visite the severall congregations for this effect, which the brethren reslove and intend to doe with the first conveniencie after the first Provinciall.

Martij 26.—Andrew Patrik called, compeirg, being enquyred, if he could remember the preceife tyme at which he had fein these women, as he had before alledged? Answered, that it was the last yeir fave one, in the goesommer betuixt Michelmes and Mertimes, about what day of the week, or in what week of these, he did not particularlie remember. All thinges he answered precisely as he done before, only he added, that after he came out of Johne Reikie his house, he stayed an houre in his sonnes house.

Johne Rikie called, compeirs, and his oath being taken, he was enquyred, if he did remember that Andrew Patrik was at any tyme late in his house ? He answered, that the last yeir fave one, when he came home from his work, he fand Andrew Patrik waiting wpon him in his sonnes house, and that after he came home he came into his house, with cloath to be a pare of breches to Johne Drybro his servant and fister sonne ; and that Andrew Patrik sent for a quart aill in his house, and stayed their with his fone sheaping the breekis and drinking the quart aill whil about 9 or ten houres.

Johne Rikie his wyfe, called, compeirs, and hir oath being taken, s/he is enquyred anent the foirsaid mater ; whose deposition did in all points agrie with the former.

Andrew Patrik younger called, compeirs, and being enquyred, his deposition did in all points agrie with the former.

Margaret Patrik being called, compeirs, and being enquyred, if ewer s/he remembred that hir father came home to his owne house in the night in gryt fear and all wett ? Answered, that the last yeir fave on in the goesomer, he came in the night to his owne door crying, and that s/he being afayd, rose, opened the door, and that he came in grytly afayd, and all wett. Being enquyred, if he told hir what it was that feared him ? She answere, that he told hir not.

Alexander Kirkaldy being called, Mr. Walter Greig declared, that he

had forgotten that he was apointed to be summond, and therefor he was not summond; bot both he and George Stirk affirmed, that Alexander Kirkaldy had said in their Sessioun, that Andrew Patrik had told him that he had gotten a gryt fear by seing women in the night, and that about Mertimes last fave one, and withal he said, he thought not mekle of it at the tyme.

Andrew Patrik called againe, and enquyred, if he knew any other amongst these women but Elspet Seith? He affirmed, that he knew none other of them. Being enquyred, if he had spoken of Isobel Troylus and Helen Swyn? He denyed that ewer he had spoken of them.

Thomas Kynneir, in the paroche of Kilmany, called, compeirs not. His minister, Mr. George Thomfone, declares, that he came to him on Saturday after he was summond, and declaired to him that he was summond to Sanctandros against Monday for the sowme of fyve hundred merkis, wnder the paine of horning; and that compeiring before the Sessioun on Sonday, he deponed, that he heard Andrew Patrik say, in James Stein his houfe in Kilmany, before David Arthure, Johne Grahame, and Andrew Patrik younger, that he saw eight or nyne women in the night, who put him in the water to the showldere blaeds, and that he knew three of them, Isobel Troylus, Elspet Seith, and Helen Swyn.

David Arthur called, compeirs not. His minister declares that he had come to him, and spoken to him, that he might not travell for a fore syde.

Johne Grahame called, compeirs, and being examined, declared, that he heard not Andrew Patrik speake of Isobell Troylus nor Helen Swyn.

The whole mater is referred till the first meiting after the Provinciall, and all persones having interest arordeined to be summond to be their.

April 12.—Anent the mater of Elspet Seith, suspect of witchcraft, the Presbyterie resolves to adwyse with the Justice Deput, Mr. Alexander Colven, if what has bein found againſt hir be sufficient grownd to recommend hir to the civill judge to be incarcerated for tryall; and, for that effect, ordained the clerk to extract hir processe out of the Presbyterie book, and to delyver it, together with the processe of the Sessioun of Balmirrinoch, to the first of their number that goes to the Commissioun of the Generall Assembly, wher they may have occasion of adwysing with the Justice Deput,

Mr. George Thomson is ordeined to cause summond Thomas Kynneir and the rest of the paroche, anent the sclander of witchcraft wented, as was alledged, by Andrew Patrik against Helen Swyn.

Apryl 19.—Anent the fairsaid sclander of witchcraft raised upon Helen Swyn by Andrew Patrik, as is alledged, the fairsaid Andrew not being summoned to this day, Mr Walter Greig is ordeined to cause summond him against the nixt day.

Apryl 26.—Thomas Kynneir, being called and questioned anent the scandale of witchcraft raised against Helen Swyn, declared, that Andrew Patrik elder had said so to him before thir witnesSES, David Arthure, Jean Kinloch, Andrew Patrik younger, and Marjory Stein. Being questioned, whither it was Andrew Patrik elder or younger that had said so? Answered, that he was sure Andrew Patrik elder did affirme to him that he saw Elspet Seith and Isobell Troylus, and that Helen Swyn was spoken off also, but whither by Andrew Patrik elder or younger he dothe not weill remember.

Andrew Patrik elder, being called and questioned anent the fairsaid mater, denied that he knew any of these women whom he saw except Elspet Seith; and denied also that ewer he spake of any other to Thomas Kynneir, or any body else. The said Andrew being questioned, if he had any thing to except against any of the witnesSES? answered that he had nothing.

David Arthur compeired, and being questioned wpon oath, deponed, that he heard young Andrew Patrik say to Thomas Kynneir, in his fathers heiring, that old Andrew, his father, said, that Helen Swyn was amongst these women; and that in the meane tyme, his father spak nothing against it. Being questioned, whither he heard Andrew Patrik speak of Isobel Troylus, or not? Deponed, that he saw old Andrew rownding¹ to Thomas Kynneir, and immediatly the said Thomas spoke out, saying, “I shall ridle what he hath rounded;” which was, that Isobel Troylus was amongst them. Wherunto the said Andrew replied, saying, “The thing that I have said is truthe.” Being questioned, if he heard of any other woman? Deponed, that he heard of none other, save of Elspet Seith.

¹ Whispering.

Andrew Patrik younger, being called, not compeirng, Mr. George Thomfone is ordeined to cause summond him against the nixt day, together with Marjory Stein, and Jean Kinloch as witnessses in the said mater.

Maij 3.—Andrew Patrik younger called, compeirs: being solemnly attested, declares, that he never spake, nor heard his father speake, that he knew any of these women, except Elspet Seith, and that his father was drunk at [the] tyme when it was alledged he spake these thinges. The Presbyterie ordaines Mr. George Thomson to confront the said Andrew with David Arthur before the Sessioun of Kilmany anent the foirsaid speaches, and to report.

Jean Kinloch and Marjory Stein being called, and not compeirng, Mr. George Thomson declared, that they came to him, and said they knew nothing in the said mater. He is ordeined to examine them before their Sessioun, and to report the nixt day.

May 10.—This day, Sir James Scott of Tarvett compeired, and being asked, if he had subfcryved the Protestation (or band of adherence theirto) against the Supplication of the shyre to the Parliament against the late wnlawfull Engadgement? who answered, that he was sicke in the tyme of the Protestation, and that he never saw it, nor subfcryved it, nor the Band of Adherence theirto: And withall confessed, that he had fitten in the commity, and given out ordors for the promoving of the said wnlawfull Engadgement; which he acknowledged to be a gryt fault, and professed his unfained sorrow for the same; affirming also, that he never lyked the Engadgement, nor yet was violent in the advancement of it; but only what he did was in obedience to the law. The Presbyterie, taking his declaration to their consideration, werre severally enquyred, both ministers and elders present, if they knew any thing contrarie theirto, and finding nothing, ordeined him to be admittit to the swearing and subfceryving of the Covenant in the Sessioun of Sires the nixt Lords day.

May 17.—The whilk day, Mr. William Levingstone reported the diligence of the Sessioun of Falkland, extract out of their book as followes:

May 16, 1649. The Sessioun of Falkland being conveined for giving answere to the questiones ordeined be the Presbyterie to be enquyred, touching the scandalous report raised in the paroche of Falkland, did answere as followes: To the first, namely, Of whom it is? It

is answered, that it is of Sir Mungo Murray and my Lady Abercomby. To the 2d, What it is? It is answered, that in particular they cannot condiscend wpon it, except in this farr, that their was, as is reported, some behaviour betuixt them, which gave such offence to hir howsband, as he went away in gryt rage, and left hir behind him: what hes bein the behaviour in particular, must be best knowne to my Lord Abereromby, who took the offence. As to the thrid, How it was raised? It is answered, that the said Lord Abercromby his going away in such a rage, and leaving his Lady behind him, and, as it is reported, his owne expressiones of greif and anger within the Palace, occasioned the raising of this report.

Extract out of the Sessioun Book of Falkland, and subscryved by Mr. ROBERT ARNOT, Clerk.

The Presbyterie taking the same to their consideracion, they ordeine the Sessioun of Falkland to enquyre particularly to what finne that behaviour tended betuixt Sir Mungo Murray and my Lady Abercromby, which is reported to have given offence to hir howsband; and what werre these expressiones of greif and anger wttered by him in the Palace, which ar said to have occasioned the raisng of the foirsaid scandalous report.

This day, Mr. George Thomefone gave in the diligence of the Sessioun of Kilmany, as follows:

Maij 6, 1649. The whilk day, the Sessioun, according to the Presbyteries apointment, did call before them David Arthur, and Andrew Patrik younger, and conveined them in the face of the Sessioun. David Arthur did stand close to that which he had said before the Presbyterie, without any alteration. Andrew Patrik first denied that his father had spoken any thing of any other women then Elspet Seith; theirafter, he said that he knew not whether he spake of any other or not. At last, he affirmed that he speired at his father, if Helen Swyn was among them? and that his father answered that she was; but that presently he turned his tongue againe, and denied it. He affirmed, also, that his father and he, and all the company, were in drink.

Jean Kinloch called, compeires, and being examined, did declare that she heard nothing of their discourse, she being but comming and going to them, save that she heard Andrew Patrik elder say, that he had bein drowned had not Elspet Seith saved him.

Marjory Stein called, compeirs not. Jean Kinloch declared, that the reason of hir not compeiring was, that she was gone to visite hir sister, who was sickle, and send for to hir.

The Presbyterie ordeines Mr. George Thomeson to cause summond Thomas Kynneir to compear before the Presbyterie the nixt day, either to give up witnessses for probation of his alleadgeance of witchcraft against Helen Swyn, or els to be discerned scandaler; and apoints the Sessioun of Kilmany to tak ordor with their drukennesse.

This day, Mr. David Dalgleishe declared, that Marjory Winstre had

yesterday made a voluntar confessioun of witchcraft, which this day she had denied. · The Presbyterie recommends the said mater to the care of the Sessioun of Couper, and in the meane tyme apoints Mr. James Wedderburne and Mr. Walter Greig to joyne with Mr. David Dalgleishe to conferr with her after the Presbyterie.

Maij 31.—Mr. David Reatt defyred the advyse anent the censure of some in his paroche, who werre plewing on the day of thanksgiving. The Presbyterie ordeines them to be sharply rebuked before the Sessioun ; and that ministers heirafter shall publickly discharge, from the pulpit, the lyke heirafter at solemne fasts or thanksgiving, wnder the paine of ecclesiastick censure, that none pretend ignorance.

Mr. William Livingstoun reported the diligence of the Sessioun of Falkland, in answere to the Presbyteries queries. To the first, That the scandalous behaviour betuixt Sir Mungo Murray and my Lady Abercromby, as is reported, did tend to the finne of adultery. And to the second, That my Lord Abercromby his exprestions of greif and anger, which occasioned the raisng of the said report, can not be otherwyse knowne then by examination of my Lord Annandail his family, which they referre to the Presbyterie.

Mr. James Wedderburne declared, that he went to Marjory Winster, who seemed to him to dissemble and feinzie madnesse. Mr. David Dalgleishe lykewyse declared, that she had gone away to Sanctandros whence she came. The Presbyterie ordeines Mr. William Row to acquaint the ministers of Sanctandros heirwith.

Junij 7.—Mr. George Nairne came for correspondence from the Presbyterie of Sanctandros, whom the Presbyterie defyred to cause their Presbyterie summond my Lord and my Lady Abercromby to compeir before ws against this day fyten dayes ; and lykewyse to try anent Marjory Winster, suspect of witchcraft, fled to their bownds.

Junij 14.—This day, Mr. Walter Greig produced the proceffes of the Sessioun of Balmirrinoch and Presbyterie against Elfpet Seith, together with Mr. Alexander Colwill, Justice deput, his adwyse theiranent, subferyved with his hand, declaring, that in them their ar sufficient grounds against her of incarceration *ad inquisitionem*. Lykeas, Mr. Walter pro-

duced a warrand, from the Parliament to the Magistrats of Couper, to apprehend and incarcerat hir. The Presbyterie ordeines Mr. John Alexander to goe and acquaint the Magistrats of Couper heirwith, and desyre their affistance theirin.

Mr. William Row reported, that the Earle of Crawfurd and his family did not joyne (my Lady being sicke and not able to joyne) in the thanksgiving, desyring the Presbyteries direction theiranent. The Presbyterie resolues to enquyre at the neighbour Presbyteries what they have done in sic caiffes; and for this end, ordeines Mr. David Reatt to correspond with San^tandros, and Mr. William Livingstoun with Kirkaldy.

Junij 21.—The whilk day, Mr. Walter Greig reported, that the Magistrats of Couper refuised a prifon for Elspet Seith, notwithstanding that the Sessioun of Balmirrinoch had sent two elders to be caution for hir charges during hir emprifsonment. David Robertfone compeired, and in the name of the Towne of Couper offered the theifes-holl to be a prifon to hir. The Presbyterie ordeines Mr. Andrew Bennett, and George Patersone, to represent to the Magistrats the inconveniency of that place, and to requyre a more fitting.

The Presbytery ordeines Commissioners to the Generall Assembly to have their charges payed constantly heirafter, as they werre the last yeir, viz. that these who have bein Commissioners before shall have 50 merks. And ordeines the brethren to bring in thair severall proportiones of the famyn against this day eight dayes; and Mr. Andrew Bennett to be collector of it. Mr. David Reatt protested against the a^ct, whose reasones thalbe fein.

Mr. David Reat reported that he had correspnded with the Presbyterie of San^tandros the last day, and declared, that that Presbyterie had referred such malignants amongst them as absented themselves from the thanksgiving, and were formerly suspendit from the Covenant and Communion, to the nixt Generall Assembly. The Presbytery resolues to follow that fame course with the Earle of Crawfurd and such of his family as did absent themselves from the thanksgiving; who ar theirfor referred to the ensowing Generall Assembly.

Junij 28.—The Presbytery recommends to the severall brethren that

the Catechese, discharged by the last Generall Asssemblie, be not used within their bounds.¹

The Presbyterie apointes our Commissioners to represent to the Generall Assembly these following defyres :

Firſt, That the Assembly would think wpon a way for helping the proviſion of the Poore in these paroches where the heritors and poſſeffors of lands doe not reſide.

2. That the Assembly would preſſe the meitting of that Committie of lawiers, phyſitians, and divynes, for the Tryall of Witches.

3. That the Parliament may be defyred to caufe the Committie for Plantation of Kirks to fitt, that benefitts granted by the Parliament to the Kirk may be confirmed in law wheir neid is.

4. That the Assembly wold carefully enquyre after that diſiſive Suppliſation that was hatching about the tyme of the laſt Generall Assembly, that this Presbyterie and province may be freed from any imputation theirin.

5. That ane wnliforme course for wſing of the Directory of Worſhip may be apointed througħout the Kirk.

August 6, 1649.—This day, we received a lettrefrom the Presbytrie of Perth, defyring our concurrence for taking away the scandalous and finfull fying of shearers on the Sabbath day at Abernethy. The Presbyterie ordeines the ſame to be discharged publikly out of pulpit, and that their be no fying of shearers upon the Lords day at Abernethy, nor Couper, nor any wher elſe within our bounds; and Mr. David Dalgleishe, with Ferny, ar ordeined to represent the ſame to the Committie of the flyre, and to defyre them to appoint ſome other day for that effect; and a lettref to be written to the Presbyterie of Perth fignifieing the fame.

The proceſſes of the Seſſioun of Kilmany, (together with theſe that were adjoyned with them,) againſt Elſpet Bell, is committed to Mr. James Wedderburne to be reviſed againſt the nixt day.

¹ The General Assembly, on 28 July 1648, prohibited the “ſelling, or using in Schools or families of a little Catechism, entitled, *The A, B, C, with the Catechism*, which contains very gross errors in point of universal Redemption, and in the number of the Sacraments.” At the ſame time, the Catechism agreed upon by the Assembly of Divines at Westminster, was ſanctioned “as a common Catechism for the three kingdomes.”—*Acts Gen. Ass.*

Elspet Seith is ordeined to be recommended to the Magistrats of Couper to be incacerat for tryall. The Baillyies ar defyred to cause keip hir cloffe, and permitt no body to offer violence to hir, nor have accessse to hir, but such as the Presbyterie shall appoint. The Presbytrie ordeines two of their brethren to come in all the dayes of the week, *per vices*, except Saturday, to exhort hir and pray with hir; and defyres Mr. James Givane be clerk to the proesse.

Alexander Jamefon being called, and posed, If he had apointed and fought a duell with Henry Sibbald? Acknowledged that he had foughten with him, but accidentally, and not by any mutuall appointment betuixt them, and theirfor denied it to be a dwell. He is summond, *apud acta*, to compeir the next day.

Mr. Andrew Bennett declared, that he had sent over the money for the Irish boyes to our Commissioners at Edinburgh, and Mr. William Row produced a discharge heirof, subscryved by Mr. James Hamiltoun, who was ordeined to be the receiver of the same.

Mr. Alexander Balfour and Ferny ar ordeined to defyre the provest and magistratts of Couper to change their Monday and Saturdayes mercatts to somē other day of the week.

August 23.—The brethren ar apointed to discharge publikly out of pulpit the fying of therers wpon the Lords day; and to intimat that the tyme apointed by the Committi of the shyre is Saturday, about 5 houres afternoon in Couper; and at Abernethy by the Committi of Perth, on Moneiday at 5 in the morning. Mr. Lawrence Oliphant is ordeined, in name of the Presbyterie, to signify so much to the Presbyterie of Perth.

Henry Sibbald, being called, confessed, that he had ignorantly faid that he had fought a dwell with Alexander Jamefone, but denied that they had apointed to fight, and that it was accidentall betuixt them. The lyke was declared by Alexander Jamefone. The Presbyterie finding nothing to the contrair, and heiring that the men werre reconciled, ordeined them to be gravely rebuked for their discord, and exhorted by the Moderator to a better cariage.

The brethren ar exhorted carefully to purge their Sessiouns from scandalous and ignorant persones; and that overtures shalbe found out for it.

September 6.—This day, the brethren ar interrogat, If family worship be advanced in their paroches? It is answered, some small progreffe in it, yet not so full as they wold wish.

This day, it is appointed that all the persons who deponed against Elspet Seith be summond against the nixt day, to be againe confronted with hir, and the brethren ar apointed to examine hir.

The Moderator produceth a lettre from the Committie of the shyre for purging of the army. And also to try what scandalous persones, pedyor-women¹ ar amongst them; and it is apointed, that ewery minister shall intimat to the congregation that they come to the Sessioune and declare.

September 13.—This day, Elspet Seith compeires, and being confronted with Jean Bruise, the said Jeane declares, that Elspet Seith had said to hir sister, “Is your kow calfed?” The young lasse answered, “Know ye not that our kow is calfed?” The said Elspet replyed, “Their is milk bewest me, and milk be-east, and aill in David Stennous house, and a hungry heart can gett none of it. The diwell put his foot among it.” And before that tyme tomorrow ther kow wold eate none; wherwpon they went to find Elspet Seith, but she keiped hir close within hir house 4 dayes and was not fein; but the said Elspet affirmed, that the wind was in hir doore. At laft the said Jean went to hir, and defyred hir to come sie their kow, and defyred some feids from hir. She answered, she had no feids, but she should gitt some; who came with the feids sometymes weitt, and sometymes dry; and the said Jean affirmes, that the said Elspet went in to sie the kow, and layd hir hand wpon hir bake, and said, “Lamby, lamby, yee wilbe weill enough.” And from that tyme furth the kow amended.

It is also declared by the said Jean, that she used to fitt downe in the way when she mett any body.

Isobel Oliphant declares, that hir kow, with the rest of the kyne, use to pluk thak out of Elspet Seithes house; the said Elspet Seith came furth and strak hir kow. Bot before the morrow, she affirmed, that the said Elspet did cast a cantrep on hir kow, that she wold not eate nor give milk, but did dwyne on a long tyme till she dyed. The said Isobell affirmed,

¹ Apparently women of loose character, who followed the army as *pedlars*.

that she newer spake it, but Elspet Seith hir selfe did blaze it abroad. She declares, that she did fitt downe in the gate ordinarily.

Jonet Miller being called, and confronted with the said Elspet, declares, that she came and looked in at Elspet Seithes door, did sie hir drawing a cheyne tether, and theirafter the said Elspet tooke the tether, and did cast it east and west, and south and north.¹ She asked hir what she was doing; answered, "I am ewen looking at my kowes tether." The said Jonet affirmes, that it is not a yeir since till Mertimes, and it is evidently knowne that she had not a kow this sixteen yeir.

The said Elspet denies all, and wold have used violence to the said Jonet if she had bein permitted.

Jean Andersone being called, and confronted with the said Elspet, declared, that the said Elspet requyred milk, and she gave hir bread but no milk. And when she went to milk hir kow, she fand nothing but blood first, and theirafter blak water all that season. The said Jean being questioned, If she did call the said Elspet a witch? She confessed she did. She declared also, that the said Elspet used to fit downe when she mett any body.

Andrew Patrik, being confronted with the said Elspet, is questioned, If ewer he saw the said Elspet early or late in the fold? Answered, that he had sein hir severall tymes, and once he saw hir in the morning, and he had a litle dog who barked despytfully at hir: She desyred him, "Stay the dog." He answered, "I wold it wold worry yow." Theirafter the dog newer eated. He affirmed also, that he saw hir amongst these women dancing. She denied all.

The said Andrew affirmed, that Johne Blak in the paroche of Forgen, and Johne Mitchel in the paroche of Leuchars, could declare concerning hir; wherfor the Presbyterie ordeines Mr. James Wedderburne, and Mr. Johne Dury to wrett to these paroches to caufe summond the saids per-
sones.

Margaret Boyd is confronted with the said Elspet, and declares, that

¹ Witches were said to have had the power of making the milk of their neighbour's cow flow into their own vessels, by drawing, or *milking* (as it was termed,) a tedder in Satan's name, and circulating it in a contrary direction to the sun.

hir goodman, Robert Broun, went to deathe with it, that Elspet Seith and other two did ryde him to deathe ; which he declared before the ministars wyfe, Mr. James Sibbald, scholmaster, and David Stennous, elder. She affirmes also, that he asked his wyfe, If she did not sie hir goe away ? She feared, and answere him, that she saw not ; and immeidatly he was eased.

Jonet Miller againe compeirs, and declares that hir howfband, David Grahame, saw Elspet Seith and Helen Young meitt, the one going one way, and the other another, the said Elspet sat downe on hir knees, and Helen Young layd hir hand on hir shoulder, and she spak some words to hir. The said David Grahame questioning Helen Young on hir deadbed, what she was doing then when they mate ? She answered, that she was defyng Elspet Seith to witch him. He questioned hir, why she wold not doe it hir selfe ? She answered, she had no power.

Ifobel Blak called, and confronted with the said Elspet, declares nothing, but that she wised ordinarily to hurch downe in the gate lyk a hare.

The brethren ar apointed to meitt with hir for tryall ; Fryday, Mr. Johne Alexander ; Monday, Mr. Laurence Oliphant ; Twysdley, Mr. James Martin ; Weddensday, Mr. Johne Littlejohne.

September 20.—For purging of the Army, Mr. David Reatt declares, that their is one Johne Watson quartered with them who was in the late Engadgement.

Mr. Alexander Balfour declares, that in Ebdy their is also Johne Little.

Mr. Andrew Bennett declares, that one Andrew Crocatt had long fince ravished a woman in their paroche ; and therfor now defyres to know if he werre in the rolls of soldiers.

Mr. Walter Greig declares, that one Johne Carny had committed a ryot within their paroche.

Concerning the tryall of others ther, it is recommended farder diligence.

This day compeirs Johne Blak, who declared, that he saw a hare fucking a kow, and she run in among the hemp towards Elspet Seiths house.

This day, Mr. David Orme produceth a proceſs against Thomas Marre, concerning his innaturality to his parents. It is referred to the A&ts of Parliament and Provinciall.

Mr. David Dalgleishe defyred to be referred to the Provinciall, anent the forme of teaching the Catechise for the use of ruder people.

October 11.—This day, the Moderator did question the brethren who werre apointed to try Elspet Seith, suspect of witcherhaft, that week. It is answered, that they had found nothing confessed.

It is apointed, that two of the brethren shall meitt, *per vices*, for tryall of Elspet Seith.

October 25.—This day, the Presbytrie apoints two brethren to goe to the provest and bailzies of Couper, and to enquyre anent Elspet Seith, suspect of witcherhaft, if they wold tak hir off their hand, and put hir in a close prifon, wheir none might have acceſſe to hir, and that they wold appoint ſome to watch hir wpon hir [their?] owne expenſs.

This day, Andrew Clerk, in the paroche of Darfy, appeirs before the Presbyterie, for being of a long tyme ignorant and ſlighting the dyetts of examination. He is apointed to mak publik declaration of his repentance in ſackcloth before the pulpit, and to keep the dyetts of examination when the minister ſhall requyre him; and if betuixt this and Candelmes he ſhall not give evidence of more diligence to learne, they will proceed againſt him in the ſentence of excommunication.

[Mr. William Wemyſs, minister at Auchterhouse.]

This day, the Magistrats of Couper returned ane anſwer to the Presbyterie, ſhewing, that they wold give no other concurrence in trying of Elspet Seith, except the theiffes-holl to be a wardhowſe for hir. It is apointed, that the Commissioners ſhall ſupplicat the Commiſſion of Estates to cauſe the towne of Couper concurre for trying of hir, and to cauſe them watch hir.

November 8.—It is apointed, that Mr. Walter Greig ſhall correfpond with Sanctandros, anent ſupplicating the Commiſſion of Estates, for cauſing the towne of Couper concurre in the tryall of Elspet Seith, according to a warrant from the Parliament.

November 21.—Thomas Kynneir, in the paroche of Kilmany, appears before the Presbyterie, for wenting imprudently what he eowld not prove, caling Helen Swyn a witch, having nothing for it but that Andrew Patrik had rownded it to him. He is apointed to mak publik declaration of his repentance for the ſlander.

They alſo defyre, that a liſt of the names of the poore in ewery paroche be broght in to the Presbyterie. As alſo, a liſt of theſe that ſtand out and have not ſubferyved the Covenant,

The whilk day, Sir Robert Crichtoun, in the paroche of Falkland, appears, and acknowledges himself to have bein at Sterling, and to have bein at Philiphaugh, and to have bein with James Graham in his rebellioune. He is referred to the Commission of the Generall Assembly.

December 6.—Elspet Seith, in the paroche of Balmirrinoch, suspect of witcherhaft, appeiring, the Presbyterie, confidering that the town of Couper wold not affist in warding and watching the faid Elspet, (according to the A&t of Parliament,) and not finding it possible to gett hir otherwyse tryed, having called hir before them, did ordein hir, lykas she promyfed to compeir againe when ewer she should be requyred.

December 20.—The whilk day, Mr. William Livingstoun declares to the Presbyterie, that he had agreed with the heritors of the paroche of Falkland, anent the augmentation of his stipend, and for furnishing the Communion Elements, and to give fowrty pounds for his howse meall; which is allowed by the Presbyterie.

This day, Mr. John Berwik, in the paroche of Falkland, acknowledges that he had spoken rashly of the Marques of Argyle. His fault being gravely laid to his charge by the Moderator, he is apointed to mak publik declaration of his repentance before the pulpit in the Kirk of Falkland.

January 17, 1650.—It is apointed by the Presbyterie, that my Lord Abercromby, for removing of that scandal and report raised by him vpon his Lady at Falkland, shall appear in the Kirk of Falkland, wpon ane Sonday before noon after sermon, and having acquaint the minister with his presence and resolution to satifly, shall declare his fault in the seatt quher he shall happen to fitt publikly in presence of the congregation; and so shalbe receaved by the minister of the said kirk. And for that effect, ordeines Mr. James Wedderburne to acquaint the Presbyterie of Sanctandros heirwith, that they may urge him heirvnto.

This day, Sir George Morison, being called, appears before the Presbyterie, and acknowledges that he had subscryved the Protestation against the Supplication of the Kirk; he professing his sorrow for the same, he did subscryve the Renunciation of that Protestation. He is apointed to mak publik declaration of his repentance the nixt Lords day in the kirk of Darfy, and so to be admittit to the Covenant and Communion.

This day, Mr. David Dalgleishe reports from the Committie of the shyre, that the Committie was beginning to tak up a list of the Malignants. As also, that they werre entring to find a way for provision of the poore.

January 31.—The whilk day, Mr. Johne Makgill elder, Moderator, with Mr. David Orme, minister at Monemell, reported that, according to the apointment of the Presbyterie, they went to Colleffy the 6 of this instant, their mett with the Heritors of the said paroche for setling the minister, according to the act of Parliament, in stipend, manse, gleib, communion elements, grasse, and foggish; and fand them content in all particulars, according to the late act, to mak out for stipend sixe chalders victuall, one hundredth pounds, fyfty merks for communion elements, and to give him fyve hundredth merks for reedifieing of his manse; and that the Presbyterie designe graffe with his gleib, with the priviledges of fewell and foggish, whilk accordingly they designed: whilk diligence the Presbyterie did approve, recommending to the Lords Commissioners for furrenders the ratification heirof, together with the reedifieing in quality and quantity as shall seem fitteſt to their Lordships.

Peter Hay of Forrett, being called, appeirs before the Presbyterie, and acknowledges his sorrow for being a Roetmaster¹ in the late finfull Engadgement. He is apointed to subferyve the Band annexed to the Declaration (which he did), and to mak publik declaration of his repentance the nixt Sabaoth in the kirk of Logy.

February 28.—This day, Mr. David Dalgleishe presents a letter from Thomas Setoun coronett his mother, showing hir consent to his mariage; together with a testificeat from Collonel Sir Johne Browne, of his satiffaction for being in the Engadgement; as also, a testimoniall from Mr. David Lyndsay, minister at Bahelvie, of his good education. The Presbyterie apoints him to be maried.

This day, their is presented 19 Declarationes of the Committie of Estates, together with the Kirks Declaration in answere to James Grahame his Declaration. The brethren ar apointed to reid the Kirks Declaration in ewery kirk the nixt Sabaoth.

¹ *Ritmaster*, a Captain of horse.

March 21.—The whilk day, is presented a lettre from the Commission of the Generall Assembly, ordeining a fast to be keiped the first Sabaoth of Apryl, for the same causes that the former fast was keiped ; and that wee may concurre with the Commissioners to his Majestie. It is apointed to be intimat the last Sabaoth of March.

The whilk day, the Presbyterie having receaved a lettre from the Presbyterie of Kirkaldy, and presented by Mr. Henry Wilkie, that new erected landward paroche of Kirkaldy had given a call to Mr. Patrik Wems, expectant amongst us, to be their minister, which they had approven ; and to interpose our authority with the said Mr Patrik to follow the said call. The Presbyterie, taking the foirsaid to their serious consideracion, doe aduise the said Mr. Patrik to follow the call given to him by the paroche and Presbyterie of Kirkaldy, and to goe to the said Presbyterie and enter to his tryalls as he shalbe requyred.

Apryl 11.—James Dury, in the paroche of Newburgh, being delated, and being obserued to be ane ordinar breaker of the Sabaoth, and contemning the discipline of the Kirk, is apointed to be summond to appeir before the Presbyterie this day eight dayes.

The A&t anent civile mul&ts, and establisshing of Judicatories in Sessiouns for exacting mul&ts, and all A&ts relative to finne, ar apointed to be broght home by the Commissioners.

Maij 9.—This day, the new paraphrase of the Psalmes came from the Commission of the Kirk ; ewery brether received a copy, and werre apointed to intimat to their congregations on the Sabaoth following before noon and afternoon to practise them.

J. Dury.—James Dury, in the paroche of Newburgh, being called, compeirs, and was declared, be the minister, to have bein out of the kirk eight Sabaoths ; and because he wold nowayes give satiffaction, by submitting to the discipline of the kirk, he is recommendit to the civile magistrate to be put in firmance till he fand sufficient caution to give satiffaction to the order of the Kirk.

At Logy, Maij 16.—Visitation of Logy.—The whilk day, the Presbyterie mett at the Kirk of Logie, (according to the former ordinance,) Mr. David Beatt preached. After incalling of the name of God, is produced, for-

maly indorfed, the roll of the heritors and elders is called for, produced ; and all of them being cited, compeired, except Southesk, for whom the Laird of Aitoun wndertook. The Moderator declares to them the end of their meitting.

The draught of the interrogatories concerning ministers and elders ar red ; both of thame ar taken sworne to declare the truthe, in so far as they know ; all ar removed, except Alexander Ramsay, who, upon his oath declares, that the minister had a litle forgetfulnesse in celebrating the Communion, viz. that he sate at the end of the table, and did reach the elements to als many as he could ; and that he was flak in visting the sicke ; that some tymes he red the papers himselfe, sent from the Commission of the Kirk, and sometymes he caused the clerk of the Sessioun to reid them ; and that he was flak in visting of families, and that he inclined to a set forme of prayer.

William Bell declares, that the minister is flak in visting the sicke ; that he hes keiped in his howse, for the space of a yeir, a woman scandalous for want of testimoniall (thogh it was requyred by the elders), and admitting hir to the Communion.

Mr..James Burne declares, that the minister is sparing in speaking against the ewills of the tyme, especially malignancy ; and that he speaks not eneugh for our delyverance from James Grahame ; and that his giving of the Communion was impertinent, and did not please him, viz. first, taking it by himself alone, then giving the elements to als many as he cowld reach, which was his old custome ; and that he had a woman in his howse without a testimoniall, as said is ; that he had some conuersing with malignants, especiaaly with Mr. James Hey ; that he is flak in visting the sicke and families ; that some tymes he restraines the liberty of elders in Sessioun, but lately hath amended it.

Johne Miller declares, that he finds more comfort in other ministers doctrine nor in his ; and that their is a difference betuixt his celebratting of the Communion and others. In the other points he deponed as the former.

James Cummings declares, that he is flak in speaking against malignants ; his weekly catechising is intimat to none except to thoſe who ar advertised by the beddell.

The rest of the elders ar called, who depone, that the minister is flak in visiting the sicke, and keipes a woman without a testimoniall in his howse, as said is ; that before they had no freedome to speak in Sessioun, but now they have ; that he was flak in reproving malignants ; and that his ordinar text was in the Revelation, and his lecture in Job.

All the elders desyres the minister to be admonished to intimat his weekly catechising publikly ; and that they might have a schole. The heritors, who werre not elders, declares, that they cowld say nothing, in respe&t they werre not residents within the paroche. The brethren of the Presbyterie (at leſt ſome of them) regrates his vnfeafonableſilence in tyme of the Engadgement againſt Malignants.

The elders ar removed, the minister is called wpon, and, wpon his oath, depones, that the elders werre very obedient in all things, and diligent in attending their callings.

The minister, heritors, and elders being altogether present, they ar demanded, if they had a ſchole ? Answered, not for the preſent. And being asked, what overturē they wold make for having one ? Answered, that they werre content that the ſcholmaſter ſhould have the annuelrent of that 1000 merks left by the ynquhile Laird of Logy ; and that the heritors werre content to adde to the ſaid annuell 40 £ib. yeirly, and they proportionaly to be ſtentit for that eſſe&t ; and the tennents to give 3 bolls beir yeirly ; and all condiſcend that a ſchole ſhould be built *primo quoque tempore*, and a ſcholmaſter provyded.

It is demanded, if the minister hes for the preſent a ſufficient manſe and gleib, with the pertinents, according to the a&t of Parliament ? It is anſwered, that he had a manſe, with two aikers of land, without the pertinents. The minister is ordered to uſe all diligencē for helping this defe&t.

Mr. George Thomson is enquyred, what he hes obſerved in the Sessioun book ? Anſwered, that he finds many imperfyte and informall proceſſes in it ; and that their was ſeverall a&ts wnbefeeming a Sessioun book, and ſeverall mul&ts employed in civile uſes ; all which he cleird from the book at that instant.

The minister, heritors, and elders removed, the Presbyterie falls wpon advyſing what ſhalbe the conclusion of that dayes work. And whil they

ar advysing, Mr. Joline Dury comes in, and earnestly desyres a helper, promysing, for his part, to give the augmentation prefently granted be the Commission for plantation of kirks for his mantenance during his lyfetyme. The Presbyterie is very well pleased with the overture. Therfore the heritors ar called wpon, and declares the same to them, who werre very weell content therwith, promysing, for their part, to adde to the said augmentation a 100 tib. yeirly during the said Mr. Johne his lyfetyme. They being removed, the Presbyterie finds thir particualars proven by the elders, viz. 1. Difforderly and corrupt celebratting of the Communion. 2. Negligent in visiting the sicke. 3. Keiping in his howse a yeir a woman scandalous for want of a testimoniall, thogh it was requyred by the elders, and admitting hir to the Communion. 4. Slak in speaking against malignancy. 5. Sometyme he restrained elders freedome, but now hath amendit it. 6. Chusing impertinent places of Scripture for his ordinary text in preaching and lecturing, viz. Revelation last; Job for lecture. 7. No ignorants ar debarred from the Communion.

Junij 12.—Mr. George Robertfone his buffinessē.—Mr. Johne Makgill younger, refuseth to subscryve Mr. George Robertfone his testimoniall, in respe^ct he had heard that he had wttered some light impertinent exprefſiones, and wnbefeeing one aiming at the ministrie, as that he said, he could easily winne the favour of any gentlewoman, and in the end give hir a blew: and that if Lady Margaret Kennedy¹ werre a good christian, she wold not stay in my Lord Crawfurd his howſe: and he said, “I wishe I werre hanged, if I be maried with Helen Kob, I ſhall call all malignants to the mariage, and my Lord Crawfurd with the firſt:” and that my Lord Crawfurd was as gryt a malignant as James Grahame.

Mr. George Robertfone, being called and questioned anent theſe things, confeſſeth that he ſaid he cowld winne the favour of any gentle woman, but to his beſt memory he did not ſay he wold give hir a blew, nor any thing to that ſenſe: he denyes the ſecond; he denyes alſo the thiſd: He confeſſeth that he ſaid, whosoeuer they werre, be it my Lord Crawfurd

¹ She was the daughter of John, ſixth Earl of Cassillis, and wife of Bishop Burnet. She was reputed a wit, and a great patron of the Presbyterians. Her letters to John, Duke of Lauderdale, with whom ſhe intrigued, were published in 1828, 4to.

or any other, that werre actors in that Engadgement, in so farr they did second what James Grahame had done.

The proceses of the women suspect of witchcraft, ar delyvered to Mr. James Wedderburne to be revised; and he is ordeined to report.

Junij 27.—Mr. George Robertfone.—The Presbyterie confidering Mr. George Robertfone his proceſſe against him ſufficiently proven, he is therfor ſuspendit from preaching till ther be gryt evidence of his repenteſce.

July 4.—It is apointed, that all the brethren of the Presbyterie ſhall meett at Falkland on Monday at 9 howres, and the Moderator is apointed to ſpeak to the King.

My Lord Crawfurd his buſineſſe.—This day, my Lord Crawfurd appeirs before the Presbyterie, and dothe acknowledge his wnfained ſorrow for being in the wnlawfull Engadgement, the advyſe of the Presbyterie with concurrence in ſupplicating the Generall Affembly for reſtoring him to the priviledges of the Kirk. The Presbyterie advyſeth his Lordſhip to goe to the Generall Affembly and ſupplicat them, and that they will with all ther power deall for his Lordſhip at ther hands.

Anent the proceses of the women ſuspect of witchcraft, the confideration of them is ſtill delayed, and ther proceses ar given to the Clerk to be keiped.

Julij 18.—This day, the Presbyterie mett wpon occaſion of lettres come from the Generall Affembly, with 19 Seafonable Warnings. As alſo, lettres werre receaved from our Commissioners, anent the ſpeedy ſending of the moneyes for the proportion of the regement of horſes to be ſent to Collonell Strauchen.

It is apointed, that no ſcandalous perfones, or diſaffeeted to the cauſe of God, be ſent out for the army; and that none be ſent out without teſtimonialls from the Minister and Seſſioun, and that it be intimat publikly owt of pulpit, and privatly to Commissioners of parishes.

August 1.—It is apointed, that the publik faſt for Kirk, King, and Country, be intimat the nixt Sabbath to be on the Sabbath following, and the privat faſt to be on the Fryday before the publik faſt: And that rules be preferyed by the Minister and Seſſioun, how families ſhowld behave themſelvſes that day of the privat faſt, and wher ther is a family wheroſ

none can reid, that then they shall concurre with another that can reid ; and that particular directiones be given by the minister on Weddensday preceeding.

August 15.—Mr. David Dalgleishe declares, that ther is a woman suffe^t of witeheraft, of whom he heard that she had communicat in the kirk of Sires. She is apointed to be summoned to appeir before the Presbyterie on Monday.

Mr. Alexander Balfour reports, that he, with Mr. John Makgill elder, had revised Mr. Andrew Lawthian his testimonialls ; they doe allow him, and he is apointed, to use family worship in the Laird of Aitoun his family, and to catechise, pray, and reid.

It is apointed, that all the brethren of the Presbyterie shall meet at Logy this day eight dayes, and that their the minister shall preach himselfe wpon his ordinar text ; that all having interest may be present, and that the meitting be for fetlinge a college.

At Logy, August 22.—The Visitation of Logy.—The whilk day, Mr. John Dury preached wpon his ordinar text, viz. the last ch. of the Revelation, v. 6 and 7.

The brethren being mett ; Mr. John Dury is removed ; the brethren ar enquyred anent ther judgement of his doctrine ; they all professe that they ar confirmed in ther opinion, that the last chapters of the Revelation is nether meett for the minister nor the heirers his parochiners ; and that they find greyt weakness in him, and had mistaken the text, and wold hardly be convinced of his inabilities.

The elders being called, and first enquyred, how they thought of that dayes doctrine be at other tymes ? Answered, that they fand grytter circumspe^tnesse in this then at other dyetts. Nixt being questioned, if ther had bein any impertinent challenges, ather from pulpit or in Sessioun, sinee the last day of meitting ? or if he had regrated his former omissions or commissione^s ? Answered, that he was so far from regretting his former faults, that he challenged elders both in pulpit and Sessioun that they had wronged him.

All is delayed till the nixt day of meitting, and the heritors and elders ar apointed to be at the Presbyterie for farder advancement of the work.

This day, Mr. George Robertfone appeirs before the Presbyterie, and heartily bliffeth the Lord for that censure that was put wpon him. He cravethe advyse of the Presbyterie, whither he showld feik to be enlarged or not? The advyce is delayed till another fitter occasion.

August 29.—This day, the Presbyterie receaved a discharge for their proportion of the contribution of horses, as followes :

Received from the Presbyterie of Cuper, two thousand one hundrethe and fyfty merks Scotts, being their proportion of ther voluntar contribution for the Ministers regement, according to the apointment of the Generall Assembly: As witnes my hand, at Edinburgh, 24 of August, 1650.

(*Sic subscriptitur*)

Mr. JAMES HAMILTOUN.

September 5.—This day, ther came a lettre from the Committi of Fyiff, defyring all ministers to exhort all fenfible persones within ther paroches to be ready and well furnished; which they condiscended wnto.

All particulars ar laid asyde, for the difficulty of tyme; they ar referred to a more fitting tyme.

October 24.—Ther came a lettre this day from the Commissioun of the Kirk, enjoyning every brother to mak enquiryrie in ther paroches, if ther be any that hes had any acceffion to that wicked course of that infur-rection of the North, and to discover the degrees therof; or if they know any of the brether that hes had hand in it, to try all the brethren: being enquyred, ther was nothing found. The brethren ar defyred to goe to the parochiners that ar any wayes suspect, and try.

October 31.—This day, having receaved a lettre from the Commissioun at Sterling, showing the sad and sorrowfull eftate of many of our prisoners in Ingland; to witt, that about 500 of them ar dead, and these who ar alyve ar extreamly pinched with hunger, cold, and want of all comfortable supplies; and defyring a contribution for them to be gathered in the kirks of this kingdome, and to send it to Sterling to the provest and dean of guild with all diligence: The Presbyterie resolved to condiscend to the faid defyre, and mak publik declaration therof the nixt Sabbath, and the Sabaoth after receive it from ewery brother, as God shall mete their hearts.

Ther is received also another lettre defyring to send some of the brether

and ruling elders of most experience to Sterling the 14 day of November, that they may concurre with ther help and counsell in sic a indigence, many being absent be reason of the tempestuous day.

The brethren reported, that they had found none that was privie to the King's escape, nor any accessfory wnto the infurre^tion of the malignant party ; except Mr. William Row, who declared, that my Lord Crawfurd denied that he knew any thing of the King's escape, but that he knew some that werre to supplicat the Commissioun of the Kirk that they might be in a capacity to fight for the cause of God.

December 5.—This day, Mr. George Hamiltoun came from the Presbyterie of Sanctandros, and Mr. Patrik Wemyfs from the Presbyterie of Kirkaldy, for correspondence, to know what course this Presbyterie wold tak with those that werre accessfory to the Kinges escape, and who had any correspondence with those enemies, or had taken protection from them. It is apointed, that ewery brother shall try in their severall Seffioniens if ther be any, and to bring in their report in writt ; and Mr. William Row is apointed to correspond with Sanctandros, and Mr. Johne Ramsay with Kirkaldy Presbyteries, for that effe^t.

December 12.—Ther was also a lettre received from the Commissioun of the Kirk, declaring ther sence anent the Remonstrances of the gentlemen, officiars, and ministers, attending the forces of the West. Ther was also ane A^t received anent complyers with sectaries, or the sectarian army ; and these who werre accessfory to the late rebellioun in the North, be fufpendit from the communion till the nixt Generall Assembly, to the which they ar referred.

This day, is produced my Lord Crawfurd his declaration, wnder his owne hand, the tenor wherof follows :

I doe declare, that I never gave his Majestie advyse to leave the Commity and goe North, nor knew of his going untill I had it from Dundy, and a command to attend him. I surely professe that I knew some werre resolved to petition for liberty to hazard themselues and all was deare to them, for defence of Religioun and the Covenant, of which number I was one, and am still redy and desyrous to doe so if it shall seem good. But for other designes præjudicall to Judicatory or person I know none.

(*Sic subscribitur*)

CRAUFURD.

The Presbyterie haveing received the former declaration, wnder my Lord Crawfurd his owne hand, anent his supposed accessioun to the Kings withdrawing from his Cownsell, and the late rebellion of the North : And the said declaration being publickely red, and all the brethren being severally interrogat, If they knew any thing further of any accessioun to these finfull courses then he himselfe had declared ? Answered, they knew nothing. The Presbyterie, haveing taken the præmisses to their confideration, and being appointed by the Commissioun of the Generall Assembly to give in the report anent the said mater, and persones accessory thereto within our bownds, at their first Sessioun, doe therfor ordein a double of the said noble Lords declaration, together with the a&t, to be sent to the Commissioun now fitting at Perth. And if any thing further shalbe made appear to ws, either concerning the said noble Lord, or any other within our bownds heirafter, it shalbe lykewyse reported with convenient diligence.

December 23.—The whilk day, a reference from the Commissioun of the Kirk to the Presbyterie of Cupar, anent Sir Mungo Murray, for his accessioun to the late wnlawfull Engadgement against the kingdome of Ingland, that they may conferre with him and try the evidence of his repentence, and report their opinion to the nixt meitting of the Commissioun, being red ; and the said Sir Mungo, personally present, being heard, who acknowledged, that he was a Collonell of horse in the said late wnlawfull Engadgement, for the which he was heartily sorrowfull ; declaring the same to be finfull, wnlawfull, and destrut&ive to the Covenant and work of reformation ; and that he was forrie he had done any thing against the declaraciones of the Kirk ; and promyfed to walk more circumspe&ly in tyme comeing : And the Presbyterie, haveing heard the report of the brethren appointed to conferre with him, doe conceive the said Sir Mungo to be ingenuous in his confessioun, and haveing exhorted him to walk in a cloffe communion with God, and to syde with the people of God, testify the præmisses, subscryved by the Moderator and Clerk, by the ordinance of the Presbyterie.

January 16, 1651.—The whilk day, there is represented a reference from the Commissioun of the Generall Assembly, anent the receiving of Sir Mungo Murray his repentence. Mr. David Dalgleishe and Mr. Walter Greig ar appointed to conferre with him anent the tryall of the evidence

of his repentance, they report they werre satissified. He is therfor appointed to mak declaratioun of his repentance in the kirk of Cupar the nixt Lords day.

This day, Mr. Walter Greig informed the Presbyterie, that he had receiv-ed advertisement that ther had bein such do&trine preached by Mr. William Livingstoun in the Kinges hearing as requyred to be adverted, and that gave offence to some. The Presbyterie apointed, that the said Mr. William shall goe to the Commissioun of the Kirk, and their cleir himselfe, as he himselfe defyred.

January 23.—The whilk day, the Earle of Crawfurd being referred by the Commissioun of the Generall Assembly to the Presbyterie of Cupar, for giveing satissa&tion for any accessiou he had to the Kings late escape ; The Presbyterie haveing posed him anent his accessiou therwnto, or that rebellioun in the North, he declared as before, that he was not wpon the cownsell of the Kings going away, nor knew of it till he heard that the King was at Dundey, which occasioned his going thither. Lykewyse, he acknowledged, that he knew severall on the northsyde of Tay had a purpose to supplicat for liberty to a&t against the enemy ; but of their declara-tion or hostile a&ts which followed ther wpon, he knew nothing. And that he himselfe intended, accompanied with some of his owne freinds, (for his grytter securitie,) to have supplicated the Committie of Estates for the lyko liberty ; but without any purpose of joyneing with them in that declaration, or these their hostile a&ts. And lykewyse he declared, that in his purpose of supplicating for the foirsaid liberty, he was very farr from the least thought of intending or indevoring any thing prejudiciale to the cause of God, or any persone, or judicatorie whatsomewer.

The Presbyterie takeing the same to their consideracion, and not finding it possible to get further cleiring in it, and being defyrous to have the scandal of this accessiou to the foirsaid sinfull courses taken away, doe ordein his Lordship to mak a publik declaration of his repentance for his wnfeasable and scandalous going to Dundey, to attend or follow the Kings Majestie when he had deserted the publik Cownsell ; as also, to mak a publik declaration of his repentance for his sinfull and scandalous corresponding with any, or acting any thing himselfe, (though intending nothing but to supplicat, as said is,) toward the drawing of his or their freinds together, to countenance or joyne in the lyke supplication, not

haveing any lawfull calling or power so to doe. And this to be done in the kirk of Sires the nixt Lords day, or if peremptory commands neceffitat him to goe any wher ells before that tyme, in that cace ordeines him to doe it in the kirk of Cupar to morrow after sermon.

March 6.—This day, Mr. Patrik Scougall came from the Presbyterie of Sanctandros for correspondence anent the oppresfioun and profanity of the fouldiers, defyng that the Presbyterie wold send some of their number to the Committy of the shyre now fitting, to requyre them concurre with the Presbyteries in supplicatting his Majestie and Committy of Eftates for redressing of the said insolencies; wherwnto they condiscended, and appointed that ewery brother showld try in their Seffiones what they cowld find, and improve sufficently.

March 10.—The whilk day, a meitting being appointed for giveing in the complaints against the soldiers; as also, for falling wpon overtures for provyding for ministers put from their charges by the enemy; their being present Mrs. David Dalgleshe, William Row, William Livingstoun, John Littlejohne, David Orme; elders, Carflogy and Nicol Maxwell, they appoint Mr. William Row and Mr. William Livingstoun to goe to the Committy of the shyre now fitting, to defyre them concurre in supplicatting his Majestie and Committy of Estates, for redressing these insolencies: They did returne, and reported they wold. Mr. David Reatt is appointed to correspond with Sanctandros Presbyterie for these effects.

March 20.—This day, Mr. Johne Makgill elder, represents to the Presbyterie, that it is reported a combat to be intendit betuixt Pittachup and Andrew Lefly. It is appointed that they shalbe summoned to appeir before the Presbyterie the nixt day; and for that effect, a lettre is ordeined to be wrettin to the minister of Forgon, to cause summond Major Lefly.

This day, their is a reference from the Commissioun of the Kirk anent receiving of my Lord Canmoir his declaration of repentance for his accessioun to the Engadgement, and fornication. He is remitted bak to the Commissioun.¹

¹ “1651, Apryl 6.—This day, the Vicount of Kenmuir his repentance was ressauit befor the pulpit on his knees; and gaue full satisfacioune, according to the order of the Generall Assembly, publiclty read be the minister.”—*Kirk Sess. Rec. of Cupar.*

March 27.—This day, Johne Blyth, being summond, appeirs before the Presbyterie ; being asked, if he did send a cartall to Major Andrew Lesly ? denied it. He is summond, *apud acta*, to appear before the Presbyterie this day 15 dayes. He is also defyred to abstein from any hostile way till that tyme ; whilk he did promyse, and two brether, Mrs. Johne Makgill and Andrew Bennett ar appointed to deall with him for that effect.

Maij 1.—This day, Mr. Alexander Wedderburne came from the Presbyterie of Sanctandros for correspondence, shewing that the brether of that Presbyterie had liberally contribute for their distressed brether in Lawthian, put from ther charges, defyreing the Presbyterie to doe the lyke. Whilk the Presbyterie did heartily agree to, and ordeined, that ewery brother should bring in with him the nixt day the proportion condiscended wpon.

The reiding of the Warnings is delayed till the printed copies come to our hands. This day, the severall brethren being posed anent their judgement in relation to the publik resolutiones of the Kirk, Mr. Johne Makgill professed himselff scrupled with some thinges in the publik resolutiones. The brethren, being defyrous to reason with him either to receive or hold out light, werre at last moved to delay the conference till after the ensewing meitting at Kirkaldy ; so much the rather, becaus they had not received the printed copys of the late Warning, with the which especialy he professed himselfe to be scrupled.

Maij 22.—This day, the Presbyterie received a lettre from the Commissioun anent a voluntar loan, or giveing of money for susteining the army ; as also, they received a Warning from the Commissioun of the Generall Assembly. They ar appointed to be red in the severall kirks.

Junij 12.—The whilk day, William Birrell produced the decreett of the Commissariot against his father and mother, for not consenting to his mariage ; as also, he produced the act of the Sessioun of Falkland, showing his satisfaction for his fornication committed with Agnes Ramsay, she having satisfied also, as the act beares : wherupon the Presbyterie doth appoint Mr. William Livingstoun to marie the saids persones.

The whilk day, the Presbyterie haveing received ane ordinance from the Commissioun of the Kirk, appointing our reverend brother Mr. David Reatt, minister at Darfy, to repair to the army, ther to attend my Lord

the Earle of Crawfurd his regement, for the space of three monethes nixt ensowing, doe, by these prefents, seconfd and confirme the faid ordinance of the Commiffioun, and authorize our foirsaid brother to repair to the foirfaid regement, and ther to performe all minifteriall dewties to all and ewerie one, officiars and foldiers therof. Lykas, wee doe earnestly and heartily recommend our foirsaid brother wnto the kyndnesse and christian care of the foirsaid noble Lord, and remanent officiars and foldiers of the faid regement, heartily exhorting them in the Lord, not only to yeeld wnto him hearty and cheerfull obedience in the diſcharge of his miniftrie, but alſo, to ſie that he be honeſtly provyded for in all thinges neceſſare for his oultre^{ck} and conforable abode among them; and that they be carefull tymouſly to provyde for his releiffe, that our foirsaid brother, haveing ſerved among them the tyme appointed, may be ſafe and found returned to his charge among us.

Julij 3.—This day, the Presbyterie received a letter from the Justice-deput anent James Cambell his bigamy, showing that to his gryt regrate, according to the law of the kingdome, the punishment of bigamy is not capitall, but *pœna arbitraria*; wherwith the Presbyterie is heighly displeased. The ſaid James is appointed ſtill to be keiped in firmance.

August 28.—This day, the Presbyterie againe takeing to ther conſideration the vyle and horrid murther committed by Johne Heburne of Athurstane, in killing James Laing, fervant to the Laird of Rankilor Makgill younger, as is confeſſed by the ſaid Laird of Atherſtane, in his lettē writtin to the Presbyterie; the Presbyterie, after due and grave deliberaſtion anent the faid mater, and conſidering the many weighty aggravateing circumſtances of that murther, doe, for the atrocity of that fact, ordeine the ſaid Johne Heburne of Atherſtane to be ſummarlie excommunicatt by Mr. Alexander Balfour in the kirk of Ebdy, in the whilk parish the ſaid murther was committed, as the ſaid Laird of Atherſtane was travaileing by the way, wpon the nixt Lords day, being the 31 of Agust.

Logy, Maij 6, 1652.—[Mr. Henry Pitcairne admitted minister there.]

October 21.—The whilk day, no exercife, in reſpect the Inglifhes did imped theſe that were to exercife.

November 16.—The whilk day, Mr. Andrew Anderson represents to the

Presbyterie the fadd condition of his schoole, his scholers going abroad on the Saboth ; defyres, therfor, advise what he shold do in that cace. He is ordeined, whill they want preaching in the kirk, that he shall catechise his scholers on the Saboth, instrυting them in the knowledge of God.

Apryl 21, 1653.—Commissioun Letter.—This day the lettre of the Commissioun of the Generall Assembly, of the daitt Feb. 21, 1653, was red ; and as concerning that part of it which dothe defyre that all and ewery one of our number who find our parts and actiones misrepresented in the book intituled, *The Nullity of the Generall Assembly at Sanctandros and Dundy*, clear therselfses, and returne a clear narration of ther cariage of the truthe of the particulars in wrett with the first convenience, or at the furthest to the Commissioun of the Generall Assembly, at the nixt meitting. The Presbyterie delayes till this day 15 dayes, ordeining the brether to advyse till the said day anent the answere.

The brethren present declared, that they had keiped the fast, and red the Causes which werre brought to them in the lettre. Only Mr. Johne Makgill younger declared, he had keiped the fast, but did not reid the Causes, because (as he conceived them) they ar generall, ambiguous, and defective. Lykewyse Mr. William Row declared, he had keiped the fast wpon the authority of the Commissioun of the Generall Assembly, and wpon these Causes (as he conceived them) ; but did not reid the paper conteineing these caufes, because of some generall and ambiguous exprefſions.

Monemell, Maij 12.—The whilk day, the a&t was presented. It was asked the brether anent the A&t of the Generall Assembly at Sanctandros and Dundy, of the daitt at Dundy Julij 31, 1651, *Sess. 19, antemeridiem*, appointing Expectants to declare themselfſs.

The question being ſtated, Whither preſentlie this A&t ſhould be put in execution or not ? It was earied by one voice only, not. Therfor the brether of the Presbytery therafter concluded by voicing, that it ſhould be referred to the determination of the Synod.

Mr. Laurence Oliphant defyres, that his meaneing anent his voicing be marked, that he voiced it not to be putt in execution preſentlie, was in reſpect it ſhould be referred to the Commissioun of the Generall Assembly, and noe otherwyſe. Mr. Johne Makgill elder, defyred that his voice be

noted that same way. Mr. Johne Makgill younger, defyred his protestation against that acts being made use of as a rule wherby the Presbyterie should walk; and craved a double of the act of the Generall Assembly, that he might give in his reasones. Mr. George Thomson, Mr. James Wedderburne, Mr. William Row, Mr. William Bethun elder, requyred the same.

Mr. Walter Greig professed, that he caried so much respect to, and expected so much charity from the Provinciall, as he did humbly intreat, that ther wifdomes might be pleased not to urge the execution of that act for the present, (in respect of the fadd estate of the tymes,) wherwith he cannot in conscience goe along, for the reasones that he shall shew in tyme and place convenient.

The answer of the lettre of the Commissioun of the Generall Assembly is drawn up, red before the Presbyterie, and appointed to be subscryved, and insert in the Minutts; the tenor therof follows.

RIGHT REVEREND,

HAVEING taken to our serious thoughts your lettre directed to ws at your last meiting, and finding, besyde many other dowtes relateing to the publik god of the Kirk, theirin to ws recommended, the performance wheroft wee resolve, in the Lords strenth, to endeavour, that more particularly wee ar desyred to cleir ourselfes of what wee find misrepresented, as concerning our parts and actions, in that book entituled, "The Nullity of the pretended Assembly at Sanctandros and Dundy;" and to returne to you a cleir narration of our cariage, and of the truthe of particulars in our electioun of Commissioners of that venerable Assembly, wee shall say no further but this, that our electioun was free and wnnanimous, without either protestation or dissent to the contrair. And as for that lettre of the Commissioun 1650, so much talked of, be pleased to know, that it was so farr from haveing any influence wpon ws in the makeing of that election, that it came not to our hands till fourteen dayes therafter. Thus, humbly desyreing the Lord to direct yow in his work, and wishing yow to endevour to keip the unity of the Spiritt in the band of peace, We ar

Your loveing Brethren in Chryst,

Cupar, May 19, 1653.

THE PRESBYTERIE OF CUPAR.

(Directed thus)

To the Moderator and remanent Members of the Commissioun of the Generall Assembly, 1652.

Mr. Johne Makgill younger declared, that he was not cleir to vote in

that lettred, being wnsatisfiess with some things that was in the Commissiouns letter. Mr. James Wedderburne declared, that he did adher to the protestation against the Assembly; therfore wold not vote to the lettred.

July 7.—The whilk day, the Laird of Collerny, with Mr. William Be-thune, gave in ane add to the reasones given in formerly against Mr. William Cochran his electioun to be minister at Creich, as followes: Wee add this evidence of Mr. William Cochran his imprudencie and wncharitablenesse (to say no worse), as was reported wnto ws, that, on a day in Kirkaldy, feing Mr. Samuel Rutherfurd passing by him, he said, If ther be a debatched knave in Scotland ther is one; *distortum vultum sequitur distortia morum.* For cleiring of this yee may enquyre Mr. Anthony Murray, student of divinity, Mr. Johne Malcom, scholmaster in Kirkaldy, Johne Buchan doctor, and Johne Fuird ther. Being posed anent that particular relateing to Mr. Samuel Rutherfurd, denied it simpliciter.

August 11.—The whilk day, some brether waited for a full meittring of the Presbyterie, they werre commanded to disperse by some Inglishes, (haveing, as they said, ane ordor for that effect;) against which encroachment wpon the right and priviledge of Presbyteries, the brethren present, to witt, Mr. James Wedderburne, Mr. David Orme, Mr. Johne Alexander, Mr. William Row, Mr. Johne Makgill younger, and Mr. Henry Pitcairne, and the Laird of Collerny, ruleing elder, did protest; and that, notwithstanding, it might be free for ws to meitt in our Presbyteries for thoſe thinges that concerne the glory of God, and the good of thoſe people fowles within our bounds, according to the word of God, and the acts of the Generall Assemblie.

October 6.—The whilk day, Mr. James Martin defyred advyce of the Presbyterie anent Thomas Brown and Isobel Gilmour in his paroche, maried by Mr. Alexander Cornwell, a deposed minister, and alledged ex-communicat, whose testimoniall for the foirsaid mariage he produced, What should be done with them for the contempt of the ordor of our Kirk, and the baptiseing of ther children begotten in fornication? The Presbyterie appointed ther children to be baptised, they finding caution to satisfy the Kirk in whatsoeuer censure shalbe enjoyned; and resolves to advyse of ther censure afterward.

Monemell, December 29.—The whilk day, Mr. Johne Alexander craveth advyce anent the baptiseing of a chyld whose parents ar lying wnder censure for ignorance. The Presbyterie advyseth the minister to deall with the parents to mak them sensible, and then baptize ther barne.

February 2, 1654.—Ther was this day a processe of the Sessioun of Newburgh, anent Kathrin Key being scandalized for witchcraft; and because of the ministers ficknepsse who had it to revise, it being sent againe to the Presbyterie, it is given to Mr. James Wedderburne to revise.

Monemell, Junij 1.—Anent Johne Reids mater concerning privat Communion, it is delayed till the nixt day.

Junij 24.—Thomas Hey being called, compeirs, who, being sworne, deponed, that he heard Margaret Gilmour say no more, but that Johne Reid gave them a souf watter round about, with many good words to it.

Johne Elder deponed, that he heard Margaret Gilmour say, that Johne Reid gave a drink of water and a bitt bread.

Christian Thomson, being sworne, deponed, that Johne Reid did not give any bread, but sought a blisfeing to the water, but asked how Jean Balankquall did.

September 7.—Anent David Wentoun, adulterer, in the parish of Newburgh, haveing fitten in the place of repentance a yeir, and not received because of his ignorance and insensiblenesse of his guiltinesse and falleing in fornication; the mater of his excommunication is referred to the Provinciall for advyse.

Monemell, October 12.—This day, the a&t of the Provinciall anent reformation of Sessiouns, elders, and families, for advancing the work of God, was red. And it is appointed, that the Presbyterie shall meitt at Mone-mell on Twesday the 17 of this instant, and to spend the whole day in conference, praying and fasting, as they shall think expedient.

October 19.—The Presbyterie being sadly weghed with the report of the continwance, and exhorbitant and unneceffarly numerous confluences of people at pennie brydles, and of inexpedient and wnlawfull pypeing and dancing at the same, so scandalous and sinfull in this tyme of our Churches lamentable conditioun; and being apprehensive that ministers and Kirk Sessiouns have not bein so vigilant and a&tive (as neid werre),

for repressing of these disorders, doe therfor most seriously recommend to ministers and Kirk Sessouns to reppresse the same.

December 14.—Mr. Walter Greig preached at Cuper, and the Presbyterie and parish being frequently mett, Mr. Johne Makgill was solemnelie admitted to the ministrie in that place according to order.

March 22, 1655.—This day, Lievetennent Crosman, ane Inglishman, appeared before the Presbyterie, and did raise the same, wherupon Mr. Johne Makgill, in name of adherers, did protest, and all present did adher.

April 12.—Mr. Johne Makgill younger represented to the Presbyterie that protestation entered March 22, the tenor wherof followes:

WHILL the Presbyterie being mett at the ordinary tyme, and in the ordinary place, was consulting about reviseing the Acts of the last half yeir, that the register might be in readinesse against the Provinciall Assemblie, Lievetennent Crosman (ane Inglishman) told ws that the meitteing of the Provinciall was forbidden, and furthwith went away, and within ane hour after came bak againe, and commanded the Presbyteriall meitteing to ryse and disperse till further order; which the Brethren resolved to obey. But withall, Mr. Johne Makgill protested against the encroachment made wpon the liberties of our Kirk Judicatories, which hold of Jesus Chryst himselfe, and ar not subordinate to any civile or military power whatsoeuer. And that notwithstanding it may be frie to us to meett in our respective judicatories in a peaceable maner about the effaurs of the Church of Chryst, within the bounds of our charge, as necessitie requyres, when and wher the Lord in his good providence should give us opportunity and a call. And this wee doe not out of humourousnesse or turbulencie of spirit; but that wee may approve our selfes to God in our station, by asserting of, and bearing testimony unto the government, liberties, and privileges of the Church of Jesus Chryst, and judicatories therof, (according to the word of God, and the bonds of our sacred and solemne Covenant), which to us ar so pretiouse that wee darr not be consenting unto, nor silent at any thing which directly, or by consequence, may be prejudiciale unto them.

Mr. JAMES WEDDERBURNE,
WILLIAM ROW, adhers.

May 3.—Mr. David Orme reports, that he, with Mr. Alexander Balfour, had delt with Katharin Key, and found hir sensible of hir guiltinessse of cursing hir minister. The minister is appointed to intimat to the parish if any had any thing concerning witchcraft to object, that they come to the Sessioun, and give it in; and if nothing be found of that kynd, s/he shall declare hir repentance in the publick place of repentance, for cursing.

A reference from the Sessioun of Falkland to the Presbyterie was pre-

presented, craveing ther advyce, What should be done with a man that strikes his wyffe, and will not forbear it? The Presbyterie finding the buffynesse of common concernement, resolves to crave advyce of other Presbyteries.

Stramiglo, May 24.—Two lettres werre presented that day to the Presbyterie, one from the Synod of Lawthian, another from the Provest and Bailyies of Edinburgh, defyreing a contribution for the help of such as had ther howfes brunt ther. The Presbyterie resolues to repreſent to the fevall Seſſions to doe accordingly. And delyvered the lettres to Mr. David Fermer, to tranfmitt them to the Presbyterie of Dumfermling.

Junij 7.—The whilk day, Mr. Patrik Peacock being requyred to declare himſelfe, according to the a&t, declares as follows:

BEING requyred to declare myſelfe, according to the Act of the Assemblie at Edinburgh, I doe declare, that it is my desyre that everie one ſhould follow peace, and ſtudy the laying by all debates that hinders the proſpering of the Lordis work in this Kirk, and that it is my purpoſe, in the Lordis strenth, to doe the ſame. But finding that I cannot declare my ſelfe according to that Act, wilesſe I would engadge in the debates now in hand, which I ſuppoſe is not the way to peace, and therfor I can not give ſatisfacioun as is requyred according to that Act as it stands *in terminis*.

The Presbyterie haveing put Mr. Patrik Peacock to declare his judgement according to the a&t of the Affemblie at Edinburgh, and received his anſwer; Mr. Johne Makgill defyred the Presbyterie to confider, Whither a young man, reſolving to be peaceable, and forbearing to engadge in debates in a tyme when the Church is fo fadly rent and divided, and wiſheing debates that hinder the proſperitie of the work of God in the Church were layd afyde, without declareing his judgement *pro or contra* in matters contraverted, whither, I ſay, that does not evidence ſuch a peaceable diſpoſition and purpoſe as dothe ſuite the duty of young men in a divided and rent Church. And without prejudice to his laſt protestation, defyres the Presbyteries ſenſe therof.

It being voiced, whither, firſt, Mr. Patrik his anſwer, or this motion ſhould be confidered. It was concluded, that wee ſhould firſt confider Mr. Patrik his anſwer.

It being voiced, whither the paper given in by Mr. Patrik be a declaration ſatisfactory? It was concluded, that it was not ſatisfactory.

Mr. Johne Makgill, Mr. James Wedderburne, Mr. Walter Greig, Mr. George Thomefon, ministers, with Collerny, Laisfistoun, Henry Corby, elders, declared they could not voice, but defyred to adher to the dissent and protestation.

Mr. William Livingtoun and Mr. James Martin, ar appointed to deall with Mr. Patrik for informeing him anent the equitie of the A&t of the Assemblie concerneing young mens entrie, and to meet at Newburgh on Monday for that effect, and to report.

The motione proponed be Mr. Johne Makgill, is appointed to be further considered untill the nixt day, and that then ane answer shall be given to it.

Junij 21.—This day, the brethren appointed to deall with Mr. Patrik Peacok, for informeing him anent the equitie of the A&t, reported that they had conferred with him, according to the appointment of the Presbyterie, and endevoured to satissie him, but prevailed not.

The Presbyterie, after deliberation upon the question proponed by Mr. Johne Makgill, doe put the matter to a vote, and it was earied equally, the one half of the Presbyterie voteing for the affirmative, and the other half for the negative, (the Moderator not voicinge.) The Presbyterie, takeing the foirsaid particular to consideration, thoght fitting to referre the famine to the Provinciall Assemblie ensowing.

Julij 12.—Mr. Patrik Peacok being enquyred, If he had subscryved the Protestation against the late Assemblie of the Church? Declared, that he had not subscryved the Protestation. As also, being requyred to promyse and give assurance, that he shall abstaine from holding up debatthes and contraversies about matter of difference in this Church since the Assemblie 1650, in preacheing, wretting, or otherwyse: The said Mr. Patrik did promyse and give assurance, that he should abstaine from holding up debatthes and contraversies about matters of difference in this Church, fince the Assemblie [16]50, in preacheing, writting, or otherwyse. Upon this ground Mr. Patrik was appointed to add as the first part of his tryells.

Mr. Johne Makgill defyres that it might be remembred, that he adhered to his sene of the overture given in to the Synod, being of nothing more defyrous then young mens frie entrie to the ministrie, and peaceable

behaviour in reference to contraversies when they ar in the ministrie. And this being alwayes fein to, I should be satifified not to owne any protestation made formerly against (as he conceived) some intended incrochings therupon.

December 27.—This day, Mr. Johne Rig presented a lettre from my Lord Burghley, craveing the advyce of the Presbyterie, if any might be buried within his Isle. The Presbyterie judges that ther can be no buriall ther, it being a publik place of hearing the Word.

Februar 7, 1656.—This day, ane delegat from the Inglish Commissioners defyred to have a notte of all the stipends which had wacked since the yeir 1651. The Presbyterie, being very unfrequent, and the ordinary Moderator absent, and the Clerk declareing that the book was not filled up, and the minutts not all at hand, entreated the gentlemans patience whill ther book be filled up. The Clerk is appointed to fill it up with all convenient diligence.

Februar 21.—It is voiced, whither the Presbyterie should declare against the erecting anew againe any Commissioun which had its authority from the Generall Asssemblie 1650? The Presbyterie appoints a declaration to be drawne up by Mr. David Orme, Mr. Alexander Balfour, and Mr. William Livingstoun.

This day, Nicolas Mershall and Jean Kede, who had bein maried by Mr. Alexander Cornwell, a deposid excommunicat minister, contrair to the ordor of our Kirk, ar appointed by the Presbyterie, for removeing of the scandal, to fitt before the pulpitt of Falkland all the tyme of divine service one dyett, and therafter declare ther repentance for that ther unlawfull procedor; and that Mr. William Livingstoun, haveing layd out ther fault to the Congregation, doe cause them, by joyneing of ther hands, engadge themselfes by the mariage oath, the one to the other, for performance of the mariage duties dureing the rest of ther lyfetyme heirafter.

Martij 6.—Mr. William Livingstoun craveth advyse, What censure shalbe inflicted upon these that strike ther wyffes? It is referred to the Provinciall, being of common concernement.

The Declaration against the erecting of that Commissioun anew, haveing its ground from the Generall Asssemblie 1650, the draught wherof was red

before the Presbyterie and approven. But Mr. Walter Greig, John Makgill, William Row, James Wedderburne, werre not cleir ; and Mr. John Makgill defyred his dissent to be marked from that draught, and promysed to give in his reasones in due tyme.

The tenor of the fairfaid Declaration followis :

THE Presbyterie being certainly informed, that some Ministers and vthers in this Kirk have of late erected a Committie, with publict authoritie above and over all the Congregationes, Presbyteries, and Synods, of the Kirk in this land, which is by the said Ministers pretended to be the Committie for publict affairs, appointed and authorized by the Generall Assembly holden at Edenburgh 1650 ; and considering that, besides that, the Ministers and others afoirsaid have not the originall Commission granted to that Committie by the said Assemblie, nor to our knowledge so much as any authentick double therof ; and consequently knoweth neither the persons of whom that Committie was constitute, nor what matters werre committed unto them, nor what power was granted to them ; considering, wee say, besides this, that all Commissions granted be the said Assemblie 1650, did expyre and become void for afterward, at the meitinge and sitting of the following Generall Assemblie at Sanctandros, in the year 1651 ; and particularly, that the Commission granted to the foirsaid Committie for publict affairs was by the Moderator, and greater part of the members therof, delyvered and rendered up to that followeing Generall Assemblie at Sanctandros :—The Presbyterie dothe find, and heirby declares, that the erecting of such a Committie with publict authoritie, (which no Kirk judicatour inferior to Generall Assemblies can doe, let be privat men, such as these Ministers, and others that have joyned with them ar,) to be a most presumptuous usurpation over the Church of God in this land, and the judicatours therof, overturneing the established governement of the Kirk, setting up theirin, and above the judicatours therof, a reall prelaticall power, the said pretended Committie not being accountable to any of the present judicatours of this Kirk, and being to continew (according to the intention of the erectors therof) wntill a new Generall Assemblie, which the said pretended Committie (should it be permitted) shall have power to hinder and imped, so long as they shall think expedient, Who, therfor, may prorogat and propogat their usurped authoritie so long as they will ; and directly and positively condemning these two late Generall Assemblies at Sanctandros and Dundie 1651, and Edenburgh 1652, as wnlawfull, and no Generall Assembly, tending all to the undoing of this whole Kirk by a woefull and remedlesse schisme, and contrarie to our Nationall Covenant, and to the Solemne League and Covenant. And therfor the Presbyterie, finding themselfes bound by the commandement of Jesus Chryst, the covenant and oath of God, to endevour in ther station, and according to ther calling, the preservation of religion as it is by the mercie of God established amongst us, in doctrine, worship, governement, and disciplin, and to oppose, in so farr as in them lyeth, everie course and designe tending to the overturneing of the same in any [way], whither in whole or in part, doe, in the name of Jesus Chryst, obtest, and by that authoritie

wherwith the Lord hes endewed them within his house, charge and requyre all Ministers within ther bounds, that none of them presume to sitt in or concurre with the afoirsaid pretended Committie, or any Committie whatsoever, erected without the authoritie of the present establisched judicatours of the Kirk ; or to doe any thing, by vertue of any act which shall happen to be made or emitted by the afoirsaid pretended Committie or Committies, as they wilbe answerable to Jesus Chryst, and to the Presbyterie and superior judicatours of this Kirk. Lykeas in the same manner, they doe obtest and charge all professors within ther bounds, of whatsoever rank and condition, that none of them doe acknowledge the said pretended Committie or Committies, or give obedience to any of ther citations, acts, or constitutiones : But, on the contrare, that, according to ther severall stations, and as God shall call them and give occasion, that they doe testify ther disallowance of ther usurpation ; as they would not be found accessory to such disorderly courses, and guilty of the miseries and confusiones that therby may come wpon this Kirk, and would not incurre the censure of the Kirk due to such offences. And, finally, ordeines that whatsoever student of divinitie shall desyre to enter upon ther tryells for the exercyse of ther gifts, and whatsoever expectants ar to enter upon tryells in relation to a calling to the ministrie within this Presbyterie, before they be admitted, or entered upon ther tryells, they be requyred to declare ther disallowance of the said pretended Committie, and all other Committies of that kynd that shall happen to be erected in that manner ; and to promyse that they shall never owne them as lawfull Committies or Judicaturs of this Kirk, and if they refuse to doe the same, that they be debarred from being admitted upon ther tryells.

Cults, Maij 1.—[Mr. George Dishentoun admitted minister of Cults.]

Darsy, Maij 22.—The Moderator propond the question to the brethren and elders of the Presbyterie severally, Whither or not they knew in the bounds of this Presbyterie any ministers or elders that ar probably presumde to be insufficient or scandalous ; and that, as they would be answerable to ther Lord and Master, they may delate the same, to the end, that if any such be given up, the Presbyterie may appoint visitationes for tryell and censureing the same, according to the order prescryved in the act of the late Synod, concerneing visitationes.

Mr. Johne Makgill younger, being first in order, and being interrogat, gave in his answere in paper, as followes :—Mr. Johne Makgill being interrogat by the Moderator, If he knew any of his brethren insufficient or scandalous, etc. in ther ministrie and conversation, and obtefted to declare what he knew, as he wold be answerable to his Lord and Master ; the said Mr. Johne defyred the Presbyteries resolution first, before he could answere to ther question and demand, whither he might frielie delate

what he heard concerneing any of his brethren without being looked upon as rash, uncharitable, etc. or held obligeid to prove, or give in witnesSES to prove delateing what he had heard.

The Presbyterie, haveing refuised to give Mr. Johne Makgill answere to his questione, the said Mr. Johne declared, that he could not otherwayes answere to the Presbyteries questione and demand, and therfor behooved to withdraw himselfe from the Presbyterie a&ting any thing in that businesse, not being defyrous or cleir to be involved in any conclusion that they shold come to by this maner of procedor.

The Presbyterie, haveing considered the said questione, and withall remembiring that he had propound it before to the Synod, and had not bein cleird, for any thing they find in the Synod book, did refuise to solve his questione; wheirupon the said Mr. Johne was interrogat againe, and defyred to answere to the first and maine questione; wherunto he gave in, by way of answere, the paper, and defyred ane extract, which was appointed to be given him.

Many of the rest of the brethren answered (being severally interrogat), that they knew none of ther brethren to be under probable presumptiōnes of insufficiencie or scandell; and others werre uncleir for the present.

Sires, Julij 17.—This a day, a reference from the Sessioun of Cupar is presented to the Presbyterie, craveing advyce what shalbe done with those women that ar dipped. The minister is appointed, with two or three elders, to conferre with them, and to report the nixt day. Correspondents ar appointed to be sent to neigbouring Presbyteries, Mr. William Row to San&andros, and Mr. George Dishentoun to Kirkaldy, for ther advyce.

Julij 21.—This day, the Presbyterie mett at Cupar, by occasioun of a lettre sent from the Moderator of the Synod to our Moderator, defyreing two of our number to be authorised to attend a meitinge of correspondents from the severall Presbyteries of this province, at Cupar on Thuresday nixt, for nominateing of two to goe from this province to attend the meitinge of some ministers (two from everie province) at Edinburgh, the first Weddensday of August nixt, anent the good of Religioun against the encroachment of Poperie, which is judged fitt, yea necessary, by the ministers of Edinburgh to be keiped. The brethren falling upon the businesse, but,

after some debate and conference upon the matter, finding themselues not cleir, resolved and ordeined, that the Presbyterie should meett on Thuresday nixt, that they may have information from correspondents of other Presbyteries for ther cleireing, before they proceed in it. And, because of loseing much tyme by two dayes metteing in one week, adjournes the nixt meitting of our Presbyterie after Thuresday till that day 15 dayes, being the 7 of Auguft ; ordeineing the brethren formerly appointed to exercize and add that day.

Julij 24.—This day, the Presbyterie mett for chuseing two brether, (as was formerly appointed,) the brether, not being cleir the former day, did adjourne it to this day; absents Mr. Alexander Balfour, Mr. George Thomefon, James Wedderburne.

The questione being stated thus, Whither the end of our chuseing correspondents shalbe in these termes, To meett at Edenburgh, the first Weddensday of August nixt, with the bretheren commissionat from the rest of the province, to consult for the good of religion against the encroachment of Poperie? It was concluded, affirmative. The bretheren did chuse Mr. David Orme and Mr. Alexander Balfour to meett with the correspondents of other Presbyteries of Fyiff presently in this place, for the end above exprest. From which whole conclusion, Mr. Walter Greig, Mr. John Makgill dissented, being not cleir.

October 23.—Anabaptists.—Anent the Anabaptists in the paroche of Cuper, in regard ther was ane ordinance from the Synod relateing to them, and the Synod book was not present, the buffynesse was delayed till afterward.

November 20.—Anabaptists.—The Presbyterie haveing considered the late act of the Synod of Fyiffe concerning the Anabaptist women within the parish of Cuper, have thought meett, in obedience thereto, to cite them to appear before them. And ordeines the kirk officer of the parish of Cuper to summond them, to wit, Elspet, Isobel, and Cristian Millers, to appear before the Presbyterie the nixt day of meitting, being the 4 of December ensowing.

January 1, 1657.—Anabaptists, Elspet, Isobel, Christian Millers.—This day, Elspet, Isobel, and Cristian Millers, appeares before the Presbyterie. The Moderator questioned them, If they did owne ther baptisme in ther in-

fancie? Answeres, that they did not owne it. 2. They manteined, that Chryft died for all intentionallly. 3. That the fowle sleeps with the body till the resurre^tion. 4. That Saints and true believers may fall away from true saveing grace. 5. That the decree of election is not absolute. They grant that the spirit of God is irresistable: which tennets werre contradictorie. They are appointed to be conferred with by Mr. Johne Makgill and George Thomeson.

January 15.—The Presbyterie finding that the finne of drukennesse still abounds, and that some dolefull accidents falls out upon the occasiones therafter, and yet these escape censure who ar accessory to the drukennesse occasione such accidents, It is appointed heirby, that these who have beene accessory to any drukennesse of that kynd be tryed, and be, according to the degree of that occasioune, censured.

February 26.—William Thomeson, Inglishman, appeares before the Presbyterie, and confessed that he had bein ane Anabaptist formerly, dothe now disclaime the said Anabaptisme, and defyred his chyld be baptised. The Presbyterie resolves to remitt him to the Minister and Sessioun of Cuper to be delt with; and in the mean tyme his child is not to be baptised till he be sensible of his error.

Martij 12.—A case of conscience wes proponed to the Presbyterie, by Mr. William Livingstoun, Whither any created power might lawfullie by judiciale sentence appoint the sonne to scourge his mother, and sie the same put in execution, yea or nay? The Presbyterie answered, negative; professing that the affirmative was bothe horride and contrare to the law of God and Nature.

Anabaptists.—Anent the Anabaptists women, the Presbyterie thinks [fitt] to summond them to appeare before the Presbyterie, (according to the appointment of the Provinciall,) that report may be given to the Synod. The other Anabaptist, William Thomeson, is delayed till Mr. Johne Makgill and Mr. William Row give in ther report.

Anent women witnesSES, Whither they being Elders wyffes may be witnesSES?

Junij 4.—Anabaptists.—The Anabaptists ar called upon *pro 3^o*. They ar declared contumacious. They ar appointed to be summond out of pulpit

publickly, and a lettre is to be wrettin to the Minister, wher two of them reside; the thrid, staying in towne, is to be publikly summond out of pulpit.

Junij 18.—This day, Commissioners from the towne of Sanctandros presented ther defyre, that the contribution for ther peir should be accelerated in respe&t of the season of the yeir, they being so neceffitat for the tyme. And in the meantyme, copies ar delyvered to everie minister to be presented to ther Seffiounes to be gathered as they think expedient.

Mr. John Makgill represented to the Presbyterie, that he had conferred with Cristian Miller, on of the Anabaptift women, and had not cited hir, (according to the former dayes appointment,) out of pulpit, because he hath hope that she shalbe convinced of hir error; and therfor he did delay the same till he sie what may be done. Mr. George Thomeson is appointed still to concurr with him.

Julij 16.—Anabaptiſts.—Cristian Miller, Anabaptift, being delt with by the two brether, Mr. John Makgill and Mr. George Thomeson, they report that she is still obſtinat, and vilipends privat citationes. She is appointed to be summond publikly out of pulpit.

The queſtione being propoſed, Whither Mr. William Tullideff ſhould be now or never poſed anent his declaration? It caried that he ſhould never be poſed. He is appointed to be admitted to the miniftrie this day 15 dayes. Mr. Alexander Balfour is appointed to intimat on the Saboth come eight dayes, and Mr. William Livingſtoun to celebraſe the action.

Denbug, the penult of Julij.—[Mr. William Tullideff admitted minister at Denbug.]

Sept. 3.—The Presbyterie takeing to ther conſideration the faid evidences of the Lords displeaſure upon the land, by the unfeafonable raine, thinks fitt to change ther texts, for inbeareing this faid ſtroke upon the people.

Monemell, September 10.—The whilk day, the Presbyterie mett at Moneſtell, (in obedience to the a&t of the Synod to the Presbyterie, and the a&t of the Presbyterie this day 15 dayes,) Mrs. David Raitt, William Row, Johnne Rig, Walter Greig, George Thomeson, James Wedderburne.

The names of the elders ar given in to the Presbyterie. The elders preſent, Alexander Balfour, David Bontaveron, Johne Mores, Robert Low, Alexander Low. They all being interrogat, if they werre the reporters,

that Mr. David Orme was avocat from his calling by laboureing of land without the parish? They all denied.

Alexander Balfour being particularly enquired, if ther minister was avocat from his calling, or omitted any point therof as preacheing, catechiseing, or visiteing, etc. Answered, that he never knew him omitt any duty of his calling.

Johne Mores being called, declared, that he never knew ther minister to neglet any point of his calling by his laboureing of land.

David Bontaveron being questioned, answered, that he could not misse ther minister from his calling by laboureing of land without the parish.

Robert Low being enquired as before, answered, that he never knew his minister abstracted (by laboring of land) from the duties of his calling, but was als dutifull and painfull as any minister whatfoever.

Alexander Low, being enquired as before, answered, he knew not any abstraction from his calling by laboureing of land; but wished they werre als diligent in attendance as he was to doe his duety.

These fyve elders all being called before the Presbyterie. The Presbyterie [considering] that this will not be taken for a sufficient inquirie by the Synod, did therfor appoint another dyet, that the absent elders may be present.

September 24.—The Laird of Rankilor-Nether appeares before the Presbyterie; being enquired, if ther minister, Mr. David Orme, was avocat from his calling by laboureing of land? Answered, that he desyres his minister be exhorted to be more painfull in visiteing and catechiseing; and he thought that he might be more painfull if he werre not so diverted; and that he would set his land, if so be it should be to his prejudice.

The Laird of Mount appeared, and being interrogat, if his minister was avocat from his calling by laboureing of land? Answered, that he knew him not avocat.

Robert Hendersone appeares, and declares, that it did not avocat him. David Ballingall appeares, and declares that it did not avocat the minister. Florence Johnstoun declares, that he knew him not to be avocat.

The whole heritors and elders being heard, and the minister himselffe being interrogat, the Presbyterie found, that he had land in his owne

hand in Newburgh; and that he was a conjunct tutor and curator for two pupills in the parish of Collesfy, his fifters children, who had nether father nor mother, and that he had furnished some cornes for plenishing ther rowme. The Presbyterie doe advyse him to set that land, if it should be to his prejudice, and to acquite himselfe of those burdines of that tutory and curatory to the other unkle by the father syde. And withall, because they heare he is sometymes avocat by attending the civile judicatures anent his stipend, which is ill payed by some, doe therfor appoint a lettre to be wrettin to the heritors not to be a cause of avocation to him by ther deficiencie.

Ketle, October 29.—The minister and elders ar exhorted to rebuike tipling and long fitting at drink ; and that they delate swearers and cursers, and grub pipeing and dancing.

Apryl 22, 1658.—Anabaptist.—Cristian Miller, in the parish of Cupar, being before declared contumax to the discipline of the Kirk of Scotland, the minister is appointed to goe on in the first prayer, before the sentence of excommunication.

Maij 5.—Mr. George Thomeson represented to the Presbyterie, that the parish of Kilmany had no maintenance for a schole. The Presbyterie resolves to tak the most speedie course for furthering the buffynesse.

Maij 20.—Mr. Johne Makgill reported, that he had prayed the 2d tyme before excommunication. His diligence is approven. As also, he shew that she, Cristian Miller, Anabaptist, had sent some privat persones, defyreing him to conferre with hir, which he had condiscended to doe before two elders ; but being informed of some probabilities that it was but a shifte to delay tyme, he had withall defyred them to tell hir that he could not break off the course of the proceſſe of excommunication without the Presbyterie ; wishing her to be serious and ingenuous in the demanded conference. But that since that he heard nothing more from her. The Presbyterie approveth what he hath done, and appoints him to pray for her in publicke the 3d tyme before the pronunciation of the fentence.

Julij.—Anabaptists.—The Presbyterie haveing confidered the whole proceſſe concerning Christian Miller, who hath rejected and made defec-
tion from the doctrine, worship, discipline, and governement of the Kirk

of Scotland, and hath not onely turned unto the Anabaptifticall way, but also hath therwith drunk in all the Arminian errors; and that notwithstanding of the minister and Kirk Seslioun of Cuper ther tender dealling in much long suffereing, and the Presbyterie, and ther Commissioners en-devours with all meeknesse, and all faire meanes and wayes that could be thought upon essayed, she doth most obstinately continew in a wilfull reuifall to hearken to any conference, not condiscending so much as to give or heare a reaſon from us, concerning what trutheſ ſhe hath caſt off, and the errors which ſhe hath embracē: wherfore the Presbyterie being bound in conſcience to uſe all lawfull meaneſ for preventing the lyke tendernes to others, and having privately and publickly called for her, and called on the name of God on her behalf, when they could not preuaile, that no meaneſ appointed by Jefus Chryſt ſhould be neglected, doe ordaine the faid Christian Miller to be excommunicated, and appoint Mr. Johne Makgill to doe it in the kirk of Cuper.

It being found, by deposition of witneſſes, that Adam Taite, (referred by the Seslioun of Balmirrinoch to the Presbyterie,) had moſt wickedly traduced Mr. Walter Greig, and laboured to weaken his miniftrie, calleing him a betrayer of fowles, a feruffer of ſcriptures, and one unworthie of his place, etc.: all which he had denyed till it was proven.

Lykewyſe, it being found that the faid Adam, with Marjory Jak, who had together broached many foul, vyle, ſlanderous ſpeeches againſt Mr. Walters wyffe; alſo, all which was proven againſt them, after they had denyed the fame. Therfor, the Presbyterie ordeines all the three [two] to appeare before the congregation of Balmirrinoch in fackclothe, and ther acknowledge ther offenceſ, and declare ther repentence for the fame.

July 22.—Mr. Johne Makgill reported that he had excommunicated Christian Miller, according to appointment. The Presbyterie ordeines her excommunication to be intimated throughout the fevall kirks of the Presbyterie, and lykewyſe to give notice therof to neighbour Presbyteries.

December 30.—William Thomeson, Anabaptift, with his wyffe Ifobel Webster, being called pro 3^o. and not compeiring, they ar appointed publickly to be ſummond out of pulpitt.

January 27, 1659.—Anent the distrest depos'd ministers, it is to be taken to the serious confideration of the brether.

February 10.—William Thomefon compeired, and professed that he was convinced of the errore of his defe&ctione to Anabaptisme, wherto he had been, through ignorance, and by respect at that tyme, seduced, and was content to submitt to any way of satiffactione for the removeing of that scandall ; as also, for the scandall of his disorderly way of mariage with Isobel Webster. The Presbyterie ordeines, that he shall goe to the congregacion of Cuper, wher he was dipped and gave offence, and ther present his child of four yeirs old to be baptized ther publickly before the congregacion, to professe his faults foirfaid, and to promise ther (as he had done heere) to seek God for stedfastnesse heirafter ; and his wyffe Isobel Webster was lykewayes appointed to declare her repentance, the foirfaid day, for her disorderly way of mariage.

Martij 10.—The Presbyterie haveing heard of some persone makeing use of a child for cureing the Cruells, the Presbyterie doth appoint the brether to inhibit persones in that kynd ; and, withal, that it be a reference to the Synod.

May 26.—George Smyth, bailyie of Pittenweem, presents a fupplication for a contribution for supplieing of ther harbory. It is recommendit to the severall brethren. The contribution for Anstruther is first to be perfyted, and then the rest of the contributions for Craill, Pittenweem, and Kinghorne, ar appointed to be collected.

Julij 28.—This day, Mr. David Raitt caused call one James Lowdon, in his paroche, before the Presbyterie, for scandalous advyseing with ane infamous woman anent his health ; and he, being extreamly weighted therwith, the Presbyterie doe appoint him to mak declaration of his repentance before the pulpit, which he promised to obey.

September 2.—[Mr. James Wedderburne younger admitted affistant to his father at Moonfie.]

December 1.—Mr. James Makgill, minister at Largo, defyred the Presbyteries senfe and certificat of the usuall pra&tice of the Kirk and Presbyterie, of what was allowed to the relict's of deceased ministers, that accordingly might be done to his mother, the relict of our reverend brother Mr. Johne

Makgill, late minister at Flisk, who deceased March 22, 1659. The Presbyterie, haveing considered the case, and tyme of the defuncts departure, find that, according to the usuall practise of the Presbyterie in all tyme bygone, and acts of the Kirk, when a minister dieth in Januarij, his reliet or executor gett the whole stipend of that yeir wherin he dyeth; and so to the reliet of Mr. Johne Makgill, who died March 22, 1659, wilbe due the whole stipend of this present yeir 1659, which the Presbyterie doe advyse and intreat thes concerned in the payment to delyver unto her. And the whole præmisses ar appointed to be certified to Mr. James Makgill by ane extract heirof, subscryved by our Moderator and clerk.

Februar 23, 1660.—Mr. William Livingstoun defyred advyee of the Presbyterie, Whether or not he might contract one Johne Murrey, whose father was alive, the said Johne not haveing a testimoniall under his fathers hand, declaringe his consent to the mariage? The Presbyterie, finding that he was only a naturall sonne, and that the place of his fathers residence was remote at Dunfreish, and that now ther was some hazard in travaileing, thought he might goe on to marry him if no other thing were excepted.

Junij 21.—It was motioned also, anent the Thanksgiving for the great delyverance wee have had by bringing our governement establisched in our King; and it being represented, that besouth and benorth us they have been about this, the bretheren, considering that our neighbouring Presbyteries hes not as yet gone about it, think it therfore expedient to correspond with them the nixt Weddensday: Mr. William Row is appointed for that effect, and to report this day 8 dayes, which they have appointed therfore to meett. He hath also in commissiion, to shew to them the changeing of the mercat of Auchtermuchty from Monday to Twesday.

The brether appointed to draw up the oath which shoulde be put to Sir George Morison, [it] was presented and reade in his heareing: He is summond *apud acta* to appeare this day 8 dayes.

I, Sir George Morison, doe solemnly protest and sweare by the most holy and dreadfull name of the eternall and everliveing God, that I never had at any time, nor in any place, carnall dealeing or copulation with Jonet Hamiltoun, sometyme servant to my wyff; nether am I the father of the child brought forth by her, as she alledges. And this, upon the foirsaid great oath, I doe declare to be of truthe, in presence and sight of the alseing God, the searcher of hearts;

and that, as I shalbe answerable to his most gloriouse Majestie, upon the fearfull hazard of my sowles everlasting condemnation in that dreadfull day wheirin Chryst Jesus shall come to judge the world, and call me to ane account for the integretie of my heart, and for truthe and ingenuitie of my words and declaration in this particular.

Mr. Alexander Balfour craved advyse anent a man who had lived in his parish 6 or 7 yeirs unblameably; but the Seffoun, willing to be cleired concerning him, defyred him bring a testimoniall from the place of his former abode, which they did receave, beareing in it that a warlaw¹ condemned had delated him as being als guilty as himselfe; but it was lyke-wayes knowne that he had malice at him, as was declared. Mr. Alexander shew that he had not communicat since he was his parishioner; but now being defyrous to communicat, Mr. Alexander craveth advyse from the Presbyterie, whither or not he might be admitted.

Junij 28.—Mr. William Row reported, that the Presbyterie of Sanct-andros had concluded anent the Thanksgiving, that it shoulde be on Thurfday, for that the Lord hes bien pleased to grant such a delyverance to our King, without blood, in such an unexpected way. The Presbyterie resolves to obserue that day with als great thankfulness, joy, and gladnessse, as possiblly can be.

September 20.—This day, a number of copies of the Kings Majesties Lettre direct to the Presbyterie of Edinburgh, and appointed to be communicatt to the rest of the Presbyteries of this kingdome, werre sent hither by Mr. James Wood; a copy was judicially reade in the Presbyterie. The rest of the copies destrubte to the severall Bretheren, who heard and received the same with great joy, contentment, and abundance of respect as was suitable. They took to advyse what to say while we meett at the Synod.

The Presbyterie recenting ther severall Seffiones to be so tedious and long, that Bretheren ar extreamely wearied and keeped so late, they have not sufficient tyme to repaire home, doe recommend the Bretheren ther avoydeing of neidleffe debateing about matters of smallest importance; neither interrupting one another in giveing ther judgement; but that they expresse themselffes in due tyme and order: And that everie purpose alreadie tabled be propond by the Moderator, none of the rest speaking till

¹ *Warlock*; a wizzard.

they be by him requyred. Then, that in the way of deliberation, everie member, as he shalbe defyred, utter his judgement breifly, with the reafon or reasones therof, in a perspicuous concludent manner, all keipeing silence, giveing attendance, forbearing private conference, whispering, in the meane tyme. Then if ther be difference of judgement in the dispute, that the matter be, by the Moderator, put to a decisive voice, and the question stated in breiffe termes, unto which everie one shall answere, not altering the words therof; and that none may have occasione to conceive himselfe negle&ted in the deliberation, everie member before voiceing be heard to speake his mynd, upon libertie asked and given, but that none in tyme of voiceing mak interruption. And ordeines, that whosoever shall faile in thes or any of thes, that he be removed and censured.

The Bretheren ar removed to be censured, and ar approven.

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